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POLITICS IN EASTERN EUROPE.

With reference to the Skobelev incident the *Standard* observes—It has occasioned surprise in some quarters that Prince Bismarck should have taken this matter so quietly. It is probable that private communications have been addressed by the German Foreign Office to the Government of St. Petersburg; but it is abundantly evident that the German Chancellor has no desire to magnify the proportions or the importance of the incident. Those who best understand the policy of Prince Bismarck would have been surprised had he acted otherwise. His policy remains what it has been ever since the Treaty of Berlin, a policy of peace, and he adopts this policy because he believes that under its shelter and protection the particular projects he seeks to promote will be best furthered. The allied Empire of Austria-Hungary has a weighty task upon its hands; a task undertaken at the instance of Prince Bismarck under cover of the Treaty of Berlin. No one can say whether he foresaw that the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina would cause Austria so much difficulty, but nothing can be more certain than that it is regarded by Prince Bismarck as of the utmost importance that Austria should finish the undertaking without hindrance from without. To keep the rest of the world quiet while the Austrian Government establishes itself thoroughly in the occupied provinces, such is the pivot of the policy of Prince Bismarck at the present moment. It explains the effusiveness of the German Mission sent to Constantinople, and it accounts for the forbearance which the Prince continues to exhibit towards Russia, despite no little provocation. If he wanted, as many people have believed, to pick a quarrel with Russia, the opportunity for doing so has been given him over and over again. He prefers to ignore these non-official explosions of Slav impatience, and to affect to perceive only the protestations of the Russian Government that it disapproves them. None can know better than the Prince that the time will probably come when these protestations will cease, and when a perplexed Monarch will throw in his lot with the fire-eating agitators of Moscow. But it is better that that moment should be deferred until Austria is thoroughly well planted on the flank of any future Slavonic movement. This is the policy which General Skobelev clearly appreciates, and which has wrung from him those outbursts of vexation that have given him more celebrity even than the triumphs of his sword. He would strike before it is too late. At St. Petersburg the belief prevails, on the contrary, that it is already either too late or too early. It is through these vacillating moods of the Russian Government that Prince Bismarck continues his diplomatic triumphs. With one hand he keeps Russia back; with the other he urges Austria forward. How long will this singular condition of affairs last? The question is one of the utmost interest; for, from the moment the influence exercised by Prince Bismarck over the policy of the Russian Government ceases, the Eastern Question will be reopened, and will demand its final solution. People are too much in the habit of looking at the German and Austrian armies on the one hand, and the Russian army on the other, and concluding that the self-evident inequality of the combatants will prevent the combat. But they lose sight of the fact that, in unfurling the flag of Pan-Slavism, the Czar would call into the field a host of allies, none of whom, perhaps, would be formidable singly, but which by their number and multiplicity would play no inconsiderable part in the struggle. Austria might conceivably be harassed to death by the combined attacks of the various Slav communities of which she is composed, and by which she is surrounded. General Skobelev has explained that he and his friends do not look to the Czar to form one huge Slav Empire, but rather to be the head of a number of Slav communities which would be freed from all but Slav influence. We may see, by the difficulties Austria is encountering in Bosnia and Herzegovina, how disheartening is warfare when carried on against irregular combatants. At the same time, it is probable that if, as the phrase is, the struggle could be localised, Austria would prevail over these irregular forces, while the German Army would defeat the Russian Army with immeasurably more ease than it did a few years ago the Army of France. Such are the considerations which the Russian Government has to entertain, while contending with or even tolerating the Slavonic menace to its neighbours. Were the Czar absolute master of his own subjects, in fact as he is in theory, we cannot doubt which course he would select. Unfortunately, he rules over a disorganised and demoralised nation, and he has nothing to offer in response to their impatient demands but a fresh bout of foreign adventure. Prince Bismarck labours to persuade him that to quarrel with Germany will be to deliver himself up to the nihilists, and there seems substance in the reminder. But what can the Czar do? He has recalled Skobelev; but he cannot alter facts or change the German's aspirations. It is said that a great ovation awaits the traveller at Moscow. He has uttered words which will not be forgotten, because, however reckless they may have been, they represent an unalterable truth.—*Standard*.

A POSSIBLE REVOLUTION.

It is a trite observation that no political combination of the fifteenth century so profoundly influences the life of the present generation as the mechanical combination of type in Gutenberg's printing-press. The making of gunpowder, the invention of the compass, and the construction of the steam-engine are all familiar illustrations of the extent to which the inventor has revolutionised the world. Even in a purely political sense, it may be asserted that Watt was more powerful than Pitt, and the share of Arkwright in enabling England to resist and ultimately to overcome the power of Napoleon was hardly less important, although much less conspicuous, than that of Wellington. The discovery of the extent to which two parallel rails of iron could expedite loco-

motion, in Dr. Arnold's opinion, gave the deathstroke to feudalism; and no one can as yet compute the extent to which it has contributed to remodel the social system of the civilized world. Not even Stephenson, as he stood by the cradle of the locomotive, fully realised the revolutionary agent he was letting loose upon mankind; and the most sanguine believers in the future development of electricity can hardly be expected to understand the extent to which the utilisation of this force may affect the settled order of the State. All great discoveries are great revolutionaries; or, rather, it may be said that the great discoveries contain within themselves the germs of many revolutions. At present the application of electricity is only in its infancy; but already any one who is familiar with the dissolvent action of the steam engine on the old order which existed a century since can understand that the dynamo machine and the storage battery may yet effect a very unexpected transformation of the social organization, to modify or even destroy the existing balance of political forces. The political and social significance of recent discoveries in the application of electricity is increased by the disappearance of the old unreasoning Conservatism which fifty years ago formed so great an obstacle to the development of the railway system. The leader of the Conservative party is to-day driving piles in the river Lea by electricity generated by the water-wheel, that to-night will light up the electric lamps which illuminate Hatfield Hall. Not only has the old prejudice against new-fangled inventions disappeared, but information is disseminated with a rapidity before unknown. Electricity, therefore, has far fewer obstacles to overcome than those which steam has vanquished; and if, as is most probable, it is destined to bring about great changes, they will be brought about with a rapidity partaking somewhat of its own character. Last week M. Deprez succeeded in transmitting power by means of electricity through resistance representing fifty miles of ordinary telegraph wire. Hitherto it has been impossible to transmit six or eight horse power for ploughing or other heavy work more than two or three miles. This is but an illustration of the development of the new force. It enables us to conceive the possibility—to take only one illustration—of substituting a stout cable for all the waggon and steamers employed in carrying coals from the pits to the manufacturing centres where it is required for working machinery. But that is only a detail, and a comparatively small detail, of the change it foreshadows. Together with the discovery of the practicability of storing electrical energy to any extent, it opens up a vista of industrial revolution before which the boldest may well hold his breath. It renders possible the storage for future use of the fitful but tremendous forces of Nature which at present run to waste. The wind, the waterfall among the mountains, and the tide on the shore, by the simple agency of the dynamo machine and the storage battery, may in a few years compete with the steam-engine in its own field. Sir William Armstrong has long lit up his picture-gallery at Rothbury by the aid of a little mountain rivulet; and Godalming has shown that a town may be lighted by the river on which it stands. "A tenth part of the tidal energy in the valley of the Severn," says Professor Sylvanus Thompson, "would light every city, and another tenth would turn every mill, spindle, and axle in Great Britain." In Ireland and in Scotland, in Wales, and in some of the hilly districts in England, mountain torrents generate force which if stored and used would enable us to dispense with coal for all purposes except for heat; and even heat may yet be laid into our houses by wire as easily as light and force. If such a prospect is realised, the whole distribution of population in Great Britain and Ireland may be altered, and electricity may far outdo the exploits of the railway in "setting towns a-dancing" all over Britain.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

In explanation of the numbers of the division on Mr. Gladstone's motion to postpone the Orders of the Day, it should be known that the Conservative Leaders did not desire to take a division. The Irish members insisted, however, that the House should divide, and a good many Conservatives left the House without voting.

At a meeting of the Irish members on Monday it was decided to support Sir S. Northcote in opposing the postponement of the Orders of the Day for the purpose of enabling Mr. Gladstone to bring forward his motion regarding the action of the House of Lords. The decision was taken as the course of the Irish Party on the main question; but it is understood they will support Mr. Sexton's amendment.

In the not unnatural ill-humour prevalent in the House on the evening of the 27th, the occurrences of Monday night were some disposition to complain of the nomination by the Speaker of the "tellers" on the division. Sir Stafford Northcote having given notice to the motion by a negative, the official tellers of the Opposition were looked for. The fact is, however, that the Speaker acted upon an intimation conveyed to him from the front bench that the Opposition tellers would not act. In these circumstances the right gentleman took the usual course of finding tellers among the body of members who suddenly challenged the division, who in this case were the Land Leaguers.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

LORD LAMINGTON gave notice that Monday, March 6, he would call attention to the Royal charter granted November 8, 1881, to the North British Borneo Company.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at 4 o'clock.

PRINCE LEOPOLD'S MARRIAGE.

VISCOUNT FOLKESTONE gave notice that to-morrow he would ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether in view of the date of his Royal Highness Prince Leopold's marriage being fixed for April 20, he would state on what day the Government intended to make a proposition in Committee of Supply in relation to that event. (Hear, hear.)

On the motion of Mr. WILKINSON a new writ was ordered to be issued for the election of a member for the borough of Malmesbury in the room of Mr. Walter Powell, deceased.

THE FRENCH COMMERCIAL TREATY.

MR. SLAUGH gave notice that on Tuesday he would ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs what was the exact report of the country with regard to the tariff on goods for exportation to France, and also as to the navigation law.

MR. DILKE—I think that it will be convenient if I answer at once the hon. member's question. From communications which have passed since the date of my last reply, I am enabled to state that although the Bill, which awaits only the sanction of the French Senate, does not contain any special provision for the existing treaty and tariff stipulations with this country, still, as these tariff stipulations are reproduced in the treaties subsequently concluded by France with Belgium, etc., etc., to whom, having signed treaties, they are bound to observe, the same will apply to this country under the most favoured nation clause which will enjoy, except on some insignificant articles, the benefit of the existing rates. I may add that we have no reason to believe that a treaty will be concluded by the French Government with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, continuing for ten years the existing stipulations relating to navigation, treatment of subjects, trade marks, etc.

MR. BARBAR asked whether the House was distinctly to understand that the position this country would occupy would be that of the status quo, with the exception of one article in which there is no trade.

MR. CHURCHILL, in answer to Sir A. Gordon, said the proposed War Office Committee had been appointed to consider military engineering and chemical questions involved in the process of making the tunnel useless to an enemy in the event of war.

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THE LORDS AND THE LAND ACT.

MR. GLADSTONE, in moving, pursuant to notice, that the Orders of the Day be postponed until after his motion on the Land Act, said that he had no doubt that the House would support his reply, if necessary, to the question whether the Government were fully sensible of the inconvenience of their proposal, and that if even at that moment they could be assured that the inquiry of the Lords would not be extended to the judicial administration of the Land Act, they would waive their other objections to the committee.

SIR S. NORTHCOTE admitted that it was unusual to oppose such a motion as this, but he urged that the House had a right to demand from the Prime Minister some explanation of the reasons why he proposed to put a business which he had himself declared urgent. Moreover, the intimation just thrown out rendered delay necessary, inasmuch as nothing could happen in that House could obtain the result which Mr. Gladstone had declared he would be satisfied. The peers who composed the committee were men of patriotism, who would not be deaf to any appeal which might be made to them, and he put it, therefore, to the Government whether it was worth while proceeding at this time.

MR. GLADSTONE replied that such an appeal would be unbecomingly and ineffectual, and repeating his regret that Sir S. Northcote had not been able to give some assurance at the last moment, he declared again that to an examination into the judicial administration of the Land Act the Government would be no parties.

The conversation was continued by Mr. NEWDEGATE, who insisted that Mr. Gladstone's object was to extend the incapacity of the House of Lords. Mr. McCarthy announced that the Irish members with whom he acted being of opinion that the working of the Land Act required inquiry, would vote against this motion; Mr. Chaplin thought that the House should not be asked to examine an inquiry into their disastrous Act; Mr. Shaw expressed a decided opinion that the Irish members opposite did not represent the tenant farmers in regard to the Act, and that the decisions of the Commissioners would stand any inquiry; but Mr. O'Donnell

and Mr. Sexton both predicted that the debate which Mr. Gladstone was opening would form a most exhaustive and complete examination of the operation of the Land Act. After some observations from Mr. Warton, the House decided to postpone the Orders of the day by 300 to 167, and the result was received with prolonged cheers from the ministerial benches.

MR. GLADSTONE then proceeded to move his resolution that parliamentary inquiry at the present time into the working of the Land Act tends to defeat its operation, and must be injurious to the interests of good government. He explained that the object of the motion was to vote of censure on the House of Lords, he pointed out that contradictory declarations of the two Houses had been frequent in our history. Of this he mentioned several precedents, laying, however, the chief stress on Lord Ebrington's motion in 1831 on the rejection of the Reform Bill by the Lords. He disclaimed, therefore, altogether the suggestion that he desired to censure the other House, but he appealed to the House of Commons to make a declaration of the highest political importance. Dilating on the importance of the Land Act, he dwelt in forcible language on the trying crisis with which the Government found itself face to face in October last, pointing out that there were the only two forces in Ireland—the Land League and the Land Act. Calling the House to witness that he offered for a compromise had been his object, he pointed out that the Lords' Committee had inquired into the judicial proceedings of the Land Court, and that he must before them a number of judicial agents by whom the Act was administered, and they must examine them as to the motives by which their judgments had been influenced. He pointed out that the Lords had deliberately provided that none of the questions arising before the Commissioners should come before the Lords in their appellate capacity, and it was neither expedient nor desirable that the elements of social danger, and tenant as affected by the Land Act, should be overhauled by a promiscuous inquiry of this kind. The confidence of the Irish people would be vitally impaired if they had reason to believe that the House of Commons would censure any tamely the action of the Act. The whole Northern population in Ireland—the strength of the English garrison, as it was called—would be ready to go against a man if they were allowed to believe that the Land Act was to be undermined. It was to the Land Act that the Land League looked for the restoration of order and good government in Ireland, and the Government would not be responsible for anything which could interfere with its working.

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Spencer being present and acting as Secretary of State, and received the honour of knighthood. The Duke of Connaught was with the Queen during the ceremony. The Hon. Saul Samuel, C.M.G., Agent-General of New South Wales, arrived at the Castle, and had the honour of presenting

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house of his sister, Mrs. Ward. x
us last week you asked whether the
man was Lord Arthur Pelham Clinton.
Yes. Why did you ask the question?
Because it was fresh in my mind at the

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THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND
THE QUEEN.

THE LAWLESSNESS OF LONDON.

The "ruffianly lawlessness" of the streets of London, to which we have so repeatedly directed the attention of the public, has at last secured for itself recognition from the judicial bench. The weighty remarks of Mr. Justice Hawkins in the Central Criminal Court on Saturday last, will not, we should hope and expect, be allowed to pass without a very searching inquiry being made into the causes of the alarming state of things which he described. Like other people, until the facts in all their ugly detail were brought before him, the learned judge declared himself incredulous as to the possibility of such scandalous scenes of unchecked violence taking place in the heart of the metropolis. When things have got to such a pass as this the suggestion may be a contemporary of a parliamentary inquiry is not altogether uncalled for. It would be a mistake, however, to censurise the police. Notwithstanding the disgraceful exception referred to by Mr. Justice Hawkins, where a constable "assisted" at a murder as a passive spectator, the police, on the whole, do their duty with commendable courage. But there is too much reason to fear that there has been a revival of savagery among the roughs of London, with which the police are

GENERAL SKOBELEFF.

Telegraphing on Monday night, the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Standard* says:—

The whole significance of General Skobelev's speeches scarcely yet to be rightly understood in Europe, and especially to the fact that the personality of the speaker has caused somewhat into the shade attendant circumstances which are of the gravest import, whether taken apart or considered merely in their relation to his views and action.

Skobelev, as a hero, is a figure of the most dependent circumstances upon General Skobelev or his doings, and would deserve equal attention had the "white general," returning from the Tekke campaign, chosen the *role of* Cincinnatus or Collingwood instead of assuming the patriotic ardour of a countryman against the foreign invader. In the first place it cannot too strongly be insisted upon, that his denunciations, however ill-timed, are, in the main, true. This was well pointed out in your leader on the 10th. It is well acknowledged by all, even of those who condemn General Skobelev's action on the score of policy, and foresee nothing but disaster to their country in the event of a war with Germany. Amongst the educated classes of Russia, especially in the highest cities in St. Petersburg, the cause of the Panславist agitation has given rise to the gloomiest anticipations, and is looked upon as one of the certain forerunner of shame and disaster. But, unfortunately, the wise are ever the fewest; more especially is this the case in Russia, where four-fifths of the population are ignorant and superstitious into which the people are plunged; and the general feeling throughout the country is undoubtedly one of patriotic heroism. The patriotic hero whose deeds on the battlefield have been eclipsed by the denunciation and bold defiance of the hated *Nyemets*. "Skobelev is right," "He's a Russian if you like," and such like phrases are heard on all sides. The popularity of the Emperor is so great that the Emperor dares not really punish him, though placed by his escape in a very awkward and even humiliating position.

More important, however, for the moment, even than the truth or error of General Skobelev's action, is the second point of contention which to call renewed and earnest attention just now—namely, that Gen. Skobelev himself, though perfectly sincere in all he uttered, was, after all, but the spokesman of a more powerful and more sagacious and more dangerous source of power than his own choice of him as spokesman. Europe understands, of course, perfectly well, that is threatened from the same source with greater danger than that which convulsed Russia in 1876, but the careful distinction is drawn between the official and non-official elements. Russia shows that one of the most important elements in this conspiracy against the general peace is either unknown or insufficiently considered. If by official Russia is meant M. de Giers, no doubt the Russian Emperor would leave little to be desired, but it would not be forgotten that M. de Giers himself

THE DIAMOND ROBBERY IN HATTON
GARDEN.
ARRESTS IN BRUSSELS.

Another telegram from Brussels, dated March 6, says:—Among the persons arrested yesterday at the house of complicity in the robbery of the Hatton-garden Post-office, are a man, named Fulton, and his wife, and two men, named Watson and Edward Smith. Jewels to the value of 22,000 francs were found in the possession. Other arrests, also, accompanied by seizures of jewels, have been made.

On Monday afternoon, Inspectors Littlechild and Wilder, both of whom are attached to the Criminal Investigation Department, in accordance with a telegram received from the District, visited a house in Packington-street, New North-road, for the purpose of arresting a woman passing under the name of Mrs. Watson, and supposed to be the paramour of one Vanderstein, and also to ascertain if the proceeds of several gigantic robberies and frauds had not been disposed of by the gang with whom Morris, alias Vanderstein, has been associated. For some weeks past, under the direction of the Criminal Investigation Department, a series of skilful operations has been carried on by the two inspectors, who have played in the house of the woman

DISAPPEARANCE OF A FARMER. — A farmer named James Johnson, residing on a small farm in the parish of St. Mallock, Vibron Ave], near Harlow, left his home about three weeks ago for the purpose of paying his taxes, taking with him £25 for the purpose, but he has not since returned, and his friends fear something serious has befallen him. He was taken to the adjacent hamlets of Talycoo and Llanvynwy, where he appeared to have been drinking. The river Trothy, which runs near, has been dragged, and the police communicated with, but without avail. He has left a wife and five children.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.
The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the
walsack at five o'clock.

Lord Salisbury, in seconding the address, expressed an eloquent concurrence in the observations of Lord Granville. While agreeing in the general opinion that there was nothing political in the attack, Lord Salisbury reminded their lordships that the heads of two Governments so dissimilar as those of Russia and the United States had recently been the victims of assassination, a fact which he pointed to as showing that we live in times when special precautions should be taken to protect the person of the Sovereign.

At a few minutes past 8 o'clock the address, as concurred in by the Commons, was brought up to their lordships' House. On the motion of Lord Monson, it was ordered that the Lord Steward should ascertain at what time it would be her Majesty's pleasure to receive the address. Their lordships adjourned at ten minutes past 8 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. — MONDAY.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Sir C. DILKE, in answer to a question from Mr. O'Shea, stated that negotiations for the Commercial Treaty were going on with Spain, but he could not at present say more as to their nature. In answer to Sir R. A. Croft-Murray, Sir Shaw-Lefevre said that the Royal Commission of Justice would be out of the building by Easter, and would be ready for formal opening before the summer assizes. Mr. Alderman Lawrence having given notice of a question as to the unprotected condition of the Embankment, Sir William Harcourt stated at once, to allay public uneasiness, that he had directed an additional force of police to be stationed on the Embankment.

MR. BRADLUGH.

In answer to questions put by Sir Northcote, the Speaker said that the certificate of the return of Mr. Bradlugh from Northampton was communicated to the House, and was lying on the table. With regard to the Resolution of February 7, bidding Mr. Bradlugh take the oath, he having given the point his careful consideration, he had come to the conclusion that it no longer applied to Mr. Bradlugh, and he ceased to be a member for Northampton, and Sir Northcote thereupon said that as was in Mr. Bradlugh's power to come down not only at the beginning, but at the end of business, when the matter could not be discussed, and as he had not come forward to do so, he would be desired to take the oath to revive the resolution. At this point Mr. Labouchere rose, and asked whether such a motion could be made before a newly-elected member came to the table to take the oath; the Speaker replied that the right hon. baronet was entirely within his right. Sir Northcote thereupon proposed to move that the House should be satisfied that Mr. Bradlugh has been re-elected for Northampton, affirms the Sessional Resolution of February 7, and directs that he be not permitted to take the oath, and he briefly recapitulated grounds on which he moved it; namely, that the House regarded Sir Northcote as a member of the House, and would not allow that to be done without a transfusion.

Mr. MARJORIBANKS moved, as an amendment to this, a resolution in favour of modifying the existing law, so as to permit every elector to elect a member of the House of Representatives to take the oath or affirmation at his option. In moving this, he said that he was not actuated by any personal considerations, but that he was anxious to see that the gradualist should be conducted in and out of the House with the same respect and consideration which had created disgust and indignation in the minds of the people, and that he was in favour of and of whose most recent action in the House he spoke as "an unworthy manoeuvre." Mr. LABOUCHERE took exception to this, but Mr. SPEAKER said he was not prepared to interpose any objection to the resolution. Mr. LABOUCHERE then moved, as an amendment to the resolution, that the House should excite the manifestations of impatience and indignation by reading long extracts from the debates on the Wilkes's case, and engaged for Mr. SPEAKER to say whether he would do so. Mr. SPEAKER said he would do so, but he thought that if the amendment were carried, a bill brought in and prosecuted with regard to the Wilkes's case would be a reasonable step again until some decision should be arrived at.

Mr. NORTHGOTE said that, having no reliance on this assurance, he would support the amendment, and remarked with regard to the motion, that it went further than any previous motion and was no longer a defence, but an aggressive motion, and that it amounted to a declaration of disqualification, and that he would support it, and that, in its necessity, he thought it would furnish an escape for many from a painful position.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE denied that the motion was aggressive or infringed the right of the electors to elect whom they pleased, and that he was of Northampton. As to the motion, he said he had no connexion with the motion and declined to be any party to a bargain or

The amendment was supported by Mr. Vivian, Mr. Goschen, and Mr. Whith while Mr. Chaplin, Mr. E. Stanhope, and R. A. Cross spoke in favour of the retention; and Mr. WALTER said that though willing to vote for amending the law by substituting an affirmation for the oath cases, he was not willing to be a party to an undignified bargain of this kind and to a security against what he regarded as a profanation of the oath.

Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Guest, Mr. H. and Lord Percy spoke, and Mr. Gladstone explained that he had given no pledge in one way or the other as to the introduction of a Bill; but if the amendment were passed the Government would then be bound to consider what would be the best course to be pursued.

In answer to an appeal from Mr. Milnes as to the position of the resolution if it were now negatived, the Speaker said that the question substantially the same as one which

been negative could be renewed in the same session; but he added that the House would know how to meet any new circumstances without transgressing its own rules. Mr. Callan having asked whether the Speaker would allow a similar motion to be made if this were negative, the Speaker said he had enough to do to deal with points as they arose without having to decide hypothetical cases.

The House then divided, and Sir S. Northcote's resolution was carried by a majority of 15—257 to 242. The declaration of the numbers was received with a prolonged cheering from the Opposition side.

THE ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

THE SPEAKER then informed the House that the Lords had agreed to an Address to her Majesty to which they desired the concurrence of the Commons, and,

MR. GLADSTONE, in moving that the House do assent to the Address, dwelt with satisfaction on the fact that in England such acts were totally dissociated from political grievance and discontent and had been committed by men of morbid minds, combined with the narrowest capacity. He spoke, too, of the anxiety felt by her Majesty for those other persons whose names were not numbered by the placards, and he emphasized the courage displayed by the Princess Beatrice, and called attention to the marks of sympathy which had come from every part of the globe.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE, in seconding the motion, also laid stress upon this point, remarking that it would have been strange if universal sympathy had not been shown for her Majesty, who had been so ready to sympathize with others.

The adjourned debate on the Lords Committee on the Land Act was resumed by Mr. C. RUSSELL, who contended that the Government resolution would not bring about a conflict between the two Houses, but said it merely asked the Commons to endorse the disapproval with which the responsible Government regarded the proposal to inquire prematurely into the operation of the Land Act. Referring to the attempts made on the other side to minimize the inquiry, he said

that if it was to be a real inquiry the objections of the Government were unnecessary and if it was not to be a real inquiry it would be better to have the Lords give way to Astor's "compromise," Lord Cairns's letter, he urged, left untouched the chief objections to the Committee, and that the action of the Lords had already excited much alarm in Ireland he showed by the reports of numerous public meetings in the country and the press. Asserting that the real object of the inquiry was to review the decisions of the Commissioners, he contended that their action, on the whole, had been more favourable to the landlord than to the tenant, that the reductions out of the Court were larger than those of the other tribunals, and that the Commissioners had cut

Court, tenants more freely, and that much larger reductions had been made voluntarily by English landlords. Turning to the Irish members, who were opposing the Government, he asked them how they could justify their assertions that an Act which gave security of tenure and protection against capricious raising of rent had done nothing for the Irish tenant? If there had been delay in the working of the Bright Clauses it was because the important question of value had not yet been settled, but he admitted that regard to arrears, which was deficient and required amendment without delay. Finally, he protested against the unreasonable impatience of the English public in expecting the Land Act to transform Ireland all of a sudden into a tranquil Isle of France, and he hoped that he would up to the point of the benefits which it would ultimately confer on Ireland.

Lord C. HAMILTON said that the demand for inquiry arose out of the appointment of the Sub-Commissioners and their action, and its object was to ascertain the exact principles on which they administered the Act. The action of the Lords might be legitimate, but so also, was the legislation which had provoked it. Investigating the action of the Sub-Commissioners, he declared that it had demoralised the public, that it would incite them to further demands, and in due time he predicted Mr. Gladstone would be the Minister to give them Home Rule.

Mr. RICHARDSON supported the motion while Mr. Redmond, contending that the Act had failed, especially in regard to arrears desired an inquiry.

Mr. TOTTENHAM spoke at great length in condemnation of the Sub-Commissioners, illustrating his strictures by numerous cases which he contended showed the Act to be administered in a spirit diametrically opposed

On the motion of Mr. BUTT, the motion was further adjourned, and after some dispute it was put down for Tuesday night after the other business.

The other orders were disposed of and the House adjourned at 3 o'clock.

THE OUTRAGE ON THE QUEEN.

The Queen received at Windsor Castle on Monday the address signed by the boys of Eton College, congratulating the Sovereign upon her providential escape from assassination.

The ceremonial took place in the presence of the lords and ladies of the Court and the whole of the students, with the exception of a few who were absent from the school on leave; and this public expression of devoted loyalty to the Throne being the first demonstration of the kind that has occurred since the outrage the greatest interest was very naturally taken by the inhabitants of Windsor and Eton in the proceedings at the Royal residence. The Rev. C. O. Goodford, Provost of Eton College; the Rev. D.

[illegible]

sieven ^{by} the Duke of Connaught, Prince Leopold (Duke of Albany), and Princess Beatrice came through the arch under the oak dining-room, into the quadrangle. The suite in attendance, including the Duke of Fife, the Viscount Bridport, Sir C. Malet (Master of the Royal Household), Colonel Sir J. C. McNeill, Capt. Edwards and Major Egerton, and the ladies in waiting. Her Majesty, who bears herself exceedingly well, considering the ordeal she had undergone, was attired in a black lace and jacket, and later, in a black dress trimmed with a deep border of ermine, a black bonnet, the Dukes of Connaught and Albany and the gentlemen in waiting, in blue and red uniforms, and the Court wearing the blue-and-red Windsor uniform. Advancing to within a few paces of the Sovereign, Mr. B. W. B. paused and read the address, Mr. F. B. Winthrop, the captain of the Oppidians (who, it is stated, is an American gentleman studying at Eton), standing by his side during its delivery.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the Queen in the afternoon for the first time since the outrage, their Royal Highnesses en suite travelling by Great Western train to Windsor, where they arrived at a quarter of two o'clock. The Prince and Princess were received upon the platform by Mr. J. Devereux (mayor) and Councillor Norton, his Royal Highness shaking hands with the chief magistrate of Windsor as soon as he recognised him. Their Royal Highnesses drove to

palace immediately after their arrival, and were greatly cheered by the crowd *en route*, the Castle guard, a number of men of the 2d Scots Guards, under Lieutenant Finnie, saluting as the carriage passed up the hill to the quadrangle.

The Empress of Austria, travelling incognito as the Countess of Hoherems, and attended by the Countess of Salm, arrived at Windsor by special train about ten minutes after the Prince and Princess of Wales had proceeded to the Castle. The Empress, who was received at the terminus by Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Connaught, and Prince Leopold, attended by Sir George McNeill, Lady Balfour, and others, drove to the Castle in an open carriage, drawn by four grey ponies, and preceded by a couple of Royal outriders in scarlet and gold liveries. As in the case of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Empress and their Royal Highnesses met with a large number of well-wishers on both sides of the road, the Guard at Henry VIII.'s Gateway saluting the Imperial cortege as it ascended Castle-hill. Princess Christian drove to the Palace in the afternoon from Cumberland Lodge, in the Great Park. The Empress of Austria and the Prince and Princess of Wales landed at the Pier, Queen Alexandra and the Prince of Wales, the Queen quitting Windsor at three o'clock for Dover, and the Prince and Princess of Wales at ten minutes past four on their return to London. On arriving at the Great Western Railway station the Prince sent for Mr. Superintendent H. J. G. Williams, in the same manner in which he carried out the whole proceedings connected with the attempt on the Queen's life.

On Monday afternoon a public meeting, convened by the Mayor of Windsor in response to a very numerous signature requisition, was held in the Town Hall for the purpose of expressing the loyalty and love of the inhabitants to the person of her Majesty the Queen, and thankfulness for her escape from the recent attempt on her life. The Mayor (Mr. J. Devereux) presided, and having expressed his own feelings of horror and detestation at the attempt to assassinate her Majesty, the Vicar of Windsor (the Rev. Dr. Gee), proposed, and Mr. F. G. Haley seconded, a resolution to the following effect:—That the undersigned do hereby declare their abhorrence and disapprobation of any attack upon her Majesty the Queen, and do hereby pledge themselves to defend her Majesty and her lawful heirs, and to maintain her Majesty's laws and constitution.

On Sunday the Lord Mayor received the following telegram from the Syndic of Rome:—"The Municipal Council of Rome, expressing great honor and interest, has decided to congratulate Her Majesty the Queen, has requested me in yesterday's sitting to convey to her Majesty their heartfelt congratulations on her Majesty's escape. I take the liberty to beg of you to let her Majesty know the feeling of the Italian people. The telegram returned through Sir Henry Ponsonby with that the Queen was very much pleased with that evidence of the feeling of the people of Rome for her, and that she heartily thanked them for their kind congratulations. The telegram was sent to the Jewish Board of Deputies at the offices of their solicitor, Mr. Lewis Emanuel, 36, Finsbury-circus, Mr. Joseph Sebag, vice-president (in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Arthur Cohen, C. P.), and was read in the afternoon at the address of congratulation to her Majesty the Queen on her escape from the recent attempt on her life was adopted by acclamation.

At a meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects, held on Monday evening, the chairman, Mr. St. John, in coming to the business of the evening, in closing the proceedings, invited the meeting, at the instance of the Council, to request the secretaries to convey to the patron of that institution (her most gracious Majesty) their sincere feelings of thankfulness that it has pleased Almighty God to preserve her life in the midst of great danger—a life deservedly dear to all her subjects, to less than whom the members of that institution and to express their hope that her Majesty would be enabled to spend that her life may be long preserved to the benefit and the happiness of the public.

On the 16th of February a man answering the description of Roderick Maclean called at a shop of Mr. Baker, pawnbroker, of Queen-street, Portsmouth, and purchased a revolver for 5s. 9d. He gave the name of Campbell, and stated that he was about to join the Cape Mounted Rifles. About the same time a man of similar description went to another shop in Portsmouth, that of Mr. Warrel, gunsmith, in Pembroke-road, and purchased some loose tidings, for which he paid a shilling.

The photograph of the man Maclean, which was sent to Dr. Law Wade, of the Somerset and Bath Lunatic Asylum, Wells, has been identified as that of an inmate of that asylum for about twelve months. The man was discharged in July last, he then being considered cured. Dr. Law Wade, medical superintendent, has transmitted all the particulars as to the mind of Maclean to

The prisoner, since his incarceration in Reading gaol, has been in the best possible health and spirits. He is guarded over by a special warder, and is being lodged in one of the cells set apart for prisoners awaiting trial. He eats well, sleeps soundly, and is inclined to be talkative, which, of course, the officials discourage. He attended divine service in the chapel at the prison on Sunday. No application has yet been made, either by friends of the prisoner or a solicitor, to see him.

POLITICAL ITEMS.
(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

When the Address to her Majesty was returned to the House of Lords on Monday night it was found that only three peers were in attendance. By a curious coincidence they were the same three lords who awaited the reception of the Irish Land Bill when it passed its final stage in the House of Commons last session. They were Lord Thurlow, Lord Gaslington and Lord Monson.

An examination of the debate in the House of Commons on the Lords' Land Committee shows that in no recent session have so few speeches been made during an equal number of nights. It should be added that the length of the speeches does not find any parallel in the depth of attention with which they are followed. The House on Monday night, as on previous nights, was uniformly empty whilst hon. members were speaking. It appears to be the general opinion that the interest of the situation was exhausted by the division taken on the threshold of the

The suddenness of the determination taken by the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons to force on the Bradlaugh debate on Monday night did not afford an opportunity for a regular Liberal whip. It was only at 10 o'clock on Monday morning that notices were sent out calling the attention of Liberal members to the possible Division.

absent from town was Mr. Burt. The honorable member for Morpeth was in the North of England on business connected with the Miners' National Union, and did not arrive until the morning till that he could not be present. Had he arrived in time Mr. Burt, we are informed, would have voted for Mr. Merriorbank's amendment.

It is not known what course Mr. Bradlaugh would take in consequence of the vote of the night. There is, however, a general apprehension that he will present himself again and administer to him the oath with intent to raise a question.

It is to be feared that Mr. Bradlaugh's further proceedings will not be met by a vote expelling him from Parliament. Should occasion arise, Sir Stafford Northcote was moved a resolution similar to that passed at the close of last session, forbidding Mr. Bradlaugh access to the precincts of the House.

In view of the small majority of Monday night, and the special declaration of Sir Stafford Northcote, it is probable that the members of the majority will resist the amendment because otherwise it would not have been possible to reintroduce the resolution.

national Exhibition. This message, consisting of 78 words, was sent from Melbourne

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Great Britain.

LONDON, MARCH 11—12, 1882.

A STERILE SESSION.

The Times says:—"Public business has been almost at a standstill while the time of the House has been taken up, its working power frittered away, and its energies exhausted in a species of strenuous idleness. The new Rules of Procedure, if they are passed at all, will be passed only at the sacrifice of a working year. The Rules, in fact, cover so wide a field and in some respects are so revolutionary in their aim, that the House may well pause, and may deem a session not altogether wasted in getting rid of them. It is very possible that the present rules could be improved, but the changes in them ought to be made by general consent, not to be sprung upon the House by way of surprise, and to be forced through in spite of an adverse mass both of open and secret opposition. The way is to be blocked by the new Rules, and in the name of order and of efficient methods of procedure a general obstruction is to be caused."

The Economist fears that the Government is seriously misled by its natural anxiety, during a discussion on the closure, not to appear too impatient of the freedom of debate. Judging broadly and roughly, as they always do, the electors will say that the Liberals understand the country better than the Conservatives do. All this dissatisfaction is decidedly injurious to good government and the formation of sincere parties, and its growth ought, if possible, to be prevented by the direct action of the Cabinet. Mr. Gladstone should press on the Rules of Procedure, for which the country is now as prepared as it ever will be, and then bring in his bills, with a distinct intimation that they must be rejected within a reasonable time, or that he shall be unable to continue responsible for the government of the country.

The Morning Post says:—"After six weeks' session Parliament has arrived at a point which may well make the Government stand aghast. In the management of their parliamentary business Ministers are singularly inefficient or unfortunate. Mr. Gladstone has been from first to last drawn aside from his purpose. Remedial measures hastily conceived and huddled through Parliament have naturally proved unworkable, and their results are now being concealed. The division on Friday morning showed that nearly fifty Liberals had neither paired nor voted; that on the closure, if it ever take place, will show a much larger number of dissentients. This is a very serious thing for a Ministry with such a Prime Minister at the head."

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Mr. Labouchere's motion for the abolition of the House of Lords will hardly come to anything, and, indeed, is still regarded in the country as a kind of political joke; but, the Spectator observes, it is neither so impertinent nor so useless as many people suppose. It is not impertinent, though all Peers, and most Tories, think so; for the House of Lords claims powers of interference with the Commons which in principle involve a veto, in control. Mr. Labouchere's proposal, in reality, claims no more, for he only asks for an opinion, and not for a legislative act. And his motion will not be useless, for if it comes to a division it will help a little towards the solution of that very difficult problem, the real feeling of the present electoral body towards the House of Lords. At present, the true feeling of voters upon the subject is almost entirely unknown, and may be found to differ very greatly from the opinion most general, either with Radical or Tory members. The latter believe that the people are devoted to the Upper House, and would at once reject any plan for its abolition; the former sometimes suspect latent hostility, and that a popular Chamber, favoured by circumstances, could abolish the peerage altogether. We believe that the true feeling of the new electorate, which differs from that of the old ten-pounders, is not represented either by Mr. Labouchere or Lord Salisbury. There is much more active dislike of the Lords than Tories admit, and a much more general impression that a single Chamber could govern very well; but the body of opinion is in favour of retaining the Lords, as a dignified institution, occasionally useful for the expression of independent opinion, and always ornamental—and, moreover, part of the traditional Constitution.

It is also as general an opinion that the Lords, to be truly beneficial, should limit their own functions, should assume the position of the Sovereign, who only governs in theory, and should use their powers invariably to help on and facilitate government, not to oppose or thwart it. There is not the slightest dislike, that we can perceive, of the Peers as an Order, no wish to abolish titles or privileges, no aspiration for a formal equality. The dislike is not for "Lords," but for the House of Lords, when assembled in a self-Chamber, to act as if they were a self-existing body, with rights equal to those of the Government and the Commons together. That strikes the people as at

once ridiculous and noxious, and any reform which prevented that, yet left the Peers untouched in their social privileges, and with free right of addressing the country, would, we believe, be carried. It is not "abolition" the people desire, but "reform," such as the power of the Crown has undergone.

THE IRISH LAND DEBATE.

The Saturday Review thinks the best thing that can be said of the debate on Mr. Gladstone's resolution is that it has come to an end. The only possible result of the debate has been attained, and it has been shown that, after a solemn appeal from his chief on a question that does not divide it, the Liberal party will vote for Mr. Gladstone to a man. The debate is over and the inquiry in the Lords will go on. The course of the inquiry will be affected by many considerations which were touched on during the debate; but it would have been equally affected by these considerations as they presented themselves while the inquiry was being carried on. A lawyer so eminent as Lord Cairns could not have allowed a committee under his guidance to have reviewed, with the object of setting aside the actual decisions of tribunals. They would have discovered that it was impossible to set seriously in question the qualifications of the sub-commissioners by any other process than that of asking Mr. Forster why they were appointed. Mr. Forster, without any debate in the Commons, could have done as he has done, and have refused to appear before the Committee. The only effectual means of checking bad appointments is to get rid of the Minister who makes them; and the committee of the House of Lords can no more get rid of Mr. Forster than the Sergeant-at-Arms can.

Arms can. If the committee recommended that the State should contribute towards the arrears, which is apparently the only fair and practicable way of dealing with them, it is entirely in the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to attend to the recommendation or not. And the committee will have given Mr. Gladstone the advantage of being able to say, if he is opposed to the recommendations of the committee, that it is simply a statement on the part of Irish landlords that they should like to get a little ready money at the cost of the taxpayer, and to say, if he likes the recommendation, that even the Lords would view with approval the efficacy of another bribe to the tenants to behave decently. The essential objection to the institution of the committee cannot be removed. Its inquiries must to a large extent be ineffectual, for they will only show what is already perfectly well known, or will record the opinions of certain persons when the committee has chosen to summon them. When the committee sums up the results of its inquiries, it will be taken, at the pleasure of the Government, to be recording the partial and interested views of large Irish landowners, or to be making wise suggestions for giving to the tenants even more than they have got.

THE KINGDOM OF SERBIA.

The Servians, observes the Saturday Review, have suddenly taken a step which has long been in contemplation. They have made their Prince a King, and their new King has accepted the honour tendered him in a proclamation which pays the proper tribute to the virtues of his subjects and the claims of his family, and speaks with natural exultation of the Prince's entrance on a dignity which is a revival rather than a creation. There was a king there was a Servian kingdom which lasted many hundred years, and greatly enlarged its borders. It was of course Austria that really gave his new crown to King Milan. Austria kept him dangling after this crown, and to a reasonable time, but in vain, until in a moment it decided that it would be much better that he should be a King than not. The first act of the King was to receive in state the Austrian Minister, as a token that he had obtained permission to be King from Austria, and to the Austrian Minister, with the Italian Minister in attendance, followed suit, as a token that the arbiter of Serbia had acted with the sanction of the arbiter of Austria. To England it would be a matter of indifference whether the ruler of Serbia called himself King or Prince, were it not that the motives which have led Austria to sanction or call for the institution of a Servian kingdom happen to commend themselves very strongly to England, and carry out English policy with regard to the ruler of Serbia. "Pan-Slavism," Austria wishes, in face of the Pan-Slavist movement which now threatens her, at once to detach Serbia openly and irrevocably from this movement, and to give a patent pledge that she does not intend to swallow up the free Slav territories that lie beyond her occupied provinces. Further, the creation of the Servian kingdom by Austria is equal to a declaration that, if she is not to swallow up these free territories, neither is Russia to swallow them up, or to give to Russia the independence of the Servian Kingdom. Serbia was almost entirely due to the triumph of the Russian arms; but since the conclusion of the war the Servians have gradually learnt that they have much more to gain from Austria than from Russia. Austria regards with favour acts of the Servian Government of which Russia must necessarily disapprove.

LAWYERS AGAINST REGICIDE.

It is expedient, asks the Spectator, to pass special laws for the protection of sovereigns? We think it is, though not for the reason usually assigned. Such laws probably do not help much to protect them. On the contrary, they probably help to conceal the grand truth that assassination is only murder, aggravated by the absence of any warning which the monarch can understand:—It is like a murder of a blind victim, and that it is not considered such, but something separate and, as it were, above murder—something which a fanatic, otherwise honourable, may commit, and yet not be overwhelmed by shame, is due, in a measure, to the speciality of the laws. Thousands besides Victor Hugo deemed the execution of the murderer of Alexander II. of Russia a "merciful" act, who did not deem the execution of Alexander himself "unmerciful" at all. If we could get rid of special laws, try the assassin, and punish him like an ordinary murderer, and suppress all extra feeling, in the case of regicide, we should, we are inclined to think, be doing a very great service. That, however, is impossible as the infliction of inevitable toothache for theft; and, if we could do it, we should pay a very singular and a very high price for the change of system. It is most highly expedient, almost necessary, that while the world worships Monarchs, while any country is not prepared to govern itself altogether—we should create on behalf of those Monarchs the feeling which is best described, though the expression is strong, by the word "sacredness." It is in the popular sense that he is something more than a magistrate, that he is

symbolises something sacred, that in him is in some way each of us, that insult to him is insult to each and all, that the utility of the King consists. When that feeling has died away, as, for instance, it has died away in France, the monarch is no longer useful, or at least not only like any other person in whom is deposited a portion of the administrative power. It is vain, of course, to try to create such a feeling by external measures, but while it exists, it is, we believe, greatly fostered by these exceptional laws, and by the general prevalence of the notion, derived from them, that assault on the sovereign is something other and more than assault on a stewardship. Something impersonal, and in a way sacred, is attached in him—a belief which, after all, is in exact correlation with the fact. Maclean, if I saw, fired at the Queen solely because she was, in his mind, the symbol of the community, which had so neglected its primary duty of making him comfortable. Whether it is beneficial to keep up such an idea may be doubted, and will be doubted for ever; but we have no hesitation in expressing our own opinion.

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY.

In the House of Lords on Friday, Lord Stanhope, in the absence of Lord Norton, laid on the table a Bill for the Consolidation of the Acts relating to Industrial Schools. Lord Sydney brought up her Majesty's Reply to the joint Addresses of the two Houses.

Lord Kimberley stated, in reply to Lord Carnarvon, that he had received no information beyond what appeared in the newspapers as to the fighting between the Boers and the Natives on the north-western frontier of the Transvaal. The causes of the dispute he was unable to explain, but in this case it arose between some native Chiefs, and as he understood, a certain number of Boers had taken part in the matter. Considerable fighting having been reported, and the Government had been directed to be present at the frontier, and to issue a Proclamation of neutrality, and so far had been acting in good faith. He thought it would turn out that the Boers who had taken part in the disturbances were individuals such as were generally found on the frontier, and that they were not in any quarrel, and that their action was not sanctioned by the Transvaal Government.

On the motion of Lord Camperdown, the Slate Mines (Gunpowder) Bill was read a second time; and the Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill, which had been read a third time and passed, at Half-past Five o'clock their Lordships adjourned.

In the Commons, notice was given by Mr. Chaplin that, on Thursday next, he should call attention to the late Sir John Lubbock, Bart., who had been a member of the House of Commons, and to the enormous number of applications for fair rent still waiting the decisions of the Land Court, and move that the existing machinery of the Irish Land Commission was wholly inadequate for the purpose of effectually dealing with the business now before the Land Courts.

Mr. Ashley told Mr. Labouchere that the Board of Trade had no control over what the hon. member called the "uncertain temper of the elephant Jumbo"; but the Government surveyors had been directed to be present at the embarkation of the animal, and to take care that no danger to the ship or passengers was caused by the presence of the elephant on board.

Mr. Healy having inquired whether it was true that John, the son of Dublin, had been arrested under the Coercion Act, and of what crime he was suspected, Mr. Forster replied in the affirmative, and added that Mr. Forster had been reasonably suspected of intimidation with a view to preventing the payment of rent.

Mr. Healy then moved the adjournment of the House for the purpose of enabling him to protest against the action of the Executive. He contended that the arrest had been made because Mr. Forster was the partner of Mr. Patrick Egan, the Treasurer of the Land League.

After a discussion lasting upwards of two hours, the House resolved to take a division on the question of adjournment, but were defeated by 117 to 16.

Mr. St. Leonards called attention to the dormant funds in Chancery, and to the unsatisfactory form in which the list of causes, to the credit of which unclaimed money belonging to the suitors was standing, was issued, and moved that future lists be strictly alphabetically arranged, and that information be sent to sub-title, together with the names and last known addresses of the persons originally entitled, the date of the last decree or order, and the amount unclaimed.

The Attorney-General replied that at present the lists were sent to the Treasury, and that the proposal of the hon. member would impose an undue amount of labour on the Postmaster-General's office. Every information could be obtained upon application through the Treasury, and he would not do to make the information too easily accessible to persons who might be interested in promoting litigation. Mr. St. Leonards then moved that the hon. member should be paid for the information he had given, and that the hon. member should be paid for the information he had given.

Next Mr. Blennerhassett directed attention to the desirability of the State acquiring the Irish railways.

Mr. Gladstone held it to be absolutely out of the question that in this country the railways should be taken under the management of the State.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINSTON CASTLE, FRIDAY. The Queen held a Council to-day at one o'clock, at which were present his Royal Highness Prince Leopold (Duke of Albany), K.G., Earl Spencer, K.G., Lord President of the Council, Mr. St. Leonards, G.C.B. (Lord Steward), the Earl of Kenmare, K.P. (Lord Chamberlain), the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, and the Earl of Northbrook (First Lord of the Admiralty). Mr. Charles Lennox was in attendance as a fanatical, otherwise honourable, may commit, and yet not be overwhelmed by shame, is due, in a measure, to the speciality of the laws. Thousands besides Victor Hugo deemed the execution of the murderer of Alexander II. of Russia a "merciful" act, who did not deem the execution of Alexander himself "unmerciful" at all. If we could get rid of special laws, try the assassin, and punish him like an ordinary murderer, and suppress all extra feeling, in the case of regicide, we should, we are inclined to think, be doing a very great service. That, however, is impossible as the infliction of inevitable toothache for theft; and, if we could do it, we should pay a very singular and a very high price for the change of system. It is most highly expedient, almost necessary, that while the world worships Monarchs, while any country is not prepared to govern itself altogether—we should create on behalf of those Monarchs the feeling which is best described, though the expression is strong, by the word "sacredness." It is in the popular sense that he is something more than a magistrate, that he is

The christening of the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught took place on Saturday, in the presence of the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold (Duke of Albany), in the private chapel of Windsor Castle. The Royal and other guests arrived at Windsor at 12.25 by the Great Western train. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dean of Windsor officiated. The solo in the Anthem, "Come, Holy Ghost" (Sir G. Elvey), were sung by Messrs. Packer, Hunt, Gawthrop, and H. Barnby. The Queen's guests lunched at the palace.

The 19th anniversary of the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales was celebrated as usual on Monday and Tuesday morning and afternoon at intervals throughout the day merry peals were rung from the bells of St. George's Chapel, Wind-

sor Castle, and St. John's Church, and at noon a royal salute was fired in the Long Walk.

The Duchess of Argyll still continues to make fair progress. The Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh has left the Pulteney Hotel for Bromborough Park. Earl and Countess Manners have returned home from Rome, having left there on Monday. It was stated on Friday evening that the Duchess was in the condition of Lord Egerton, who is expected to recover.

Lord and Lady Brooke have arrived in Chesterfield-street, Mayfair, from Warwick Castle, for the season.

The Hon. Henry Monck and Lady Edith Monck have left town for Ireland.

Mr. Greene, M.P., and Lady Hoste have arrived at 118, Eaton-square, for the season.

On Friday evening the remains of the Earl of Wilton were conveyed from Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, to the Midland Railway Station, amid most impressive manifestations of regret and respect. The streets leading to the railway were thronged by inhabitants in mourning, while the hearse was followed by tradesmen clothed in black. The coffin was surrounded by magnificent wreaths. The train conveying the coffin reached Leicester at ten o'clock where it was transferred to the Manchester express and reached Heaton Park early in the morning.

THE ATTEMPT TO MURDER THE QUEEN.

COMMITMENT OF THE PRISONER.

The adjourned examination of Roderick Maclean, who is charged with abetting, at her Majesty's trial, was resumed on Friday morning at the Town Hall, Windsor, before the local magistrates. The Duke of Albany entered the court a few minutes before eleven, accompanied by his equestrian Sir Henry Ponsonby, and they were accommodated in the smoking room. Mr. Pollard and Mr. A. K. Stevenson, solicitors for the Treasury, again conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Edmund Thomas, instructed by Mr. Haynes, watched the proceedings on behalf of the prisoner's family. The court-room was crowded. On the prisoner entering the court-room there was some hissing, but it was quickly suppressed. Mr. Stevenson said he proposed to go on with the case from the point at which he left off last Friday. The first witness called was Inspector Turner, who produced plans of the station yard where the occurrence took place. The Mayor (to the prisoner): Have you any questions to ask this witness? Maclean: I understand I am represented either by solicitor or counsel. The Mayor: You are not represented either by solicitor or counsel at present. They are here for your family. The prisoner: I leave the case entirely in their hands. He resumed his seat, but, suddenly rising, said, "I reserve my defence."

Mr. Roderick Errington, town councillor, Sunderland, said he was in Windsor on the 22d of March, and saw the Queen arrive. He was about ten or twelve feet off when her Majesty entered her carriage, and he heard the Eion boys cheering. He turned and saw the prisoner, who was about a foot and a half from the carriage, and he was pointing a pistol in the direction of the Queen's carriage, at an elevation of two or three feet below the top of the carriage. He heard the report of the pistol and saw Inspector Hayes seize the prisoner, and another man, Mr. Sheriff Ward, who was in the lower part of the carriage, and he saw the prisoner being taken to the carriage. He saw the prisoner being taken to the carriage, and he saw the prisoner being taken to the carriage.

Edward Dowse, postilion in the service of the Queen, said, on the 22d of March he went with the Queen's carriage to the station, and had just started and got out of a gentle walk, and was about nine or ten yards from the carriage, when he saw the prisoner, who was about a foot and a half from the carriage, and he was pointing a pistol in the direction of the Queen's carriage. He saw the prisoner being taken to the carriage, and he saw the prisoner being taken to the carriage.

Mr. Gordon Cheney Wilson, Eton student, testified that after the Queen entered her carriage he heard a report, and he saw the prisoner, who was about a foot and a half from the carriage, and he was pointing a pistol in the direction of the Queen's carriage. He saw the prisoner being taken to the carriage, and he saw the prisoner being taken to the carriage.

Mr. John George Smythe, Eton student, testified that after the Queen entered her carriage he heard a report, and he saw the prisoner, who was about a foot and a half from the carriage, and he was pointing a pistol in the direction of the Queen's carriage. He saw the prisoner being taken to the carriage, and he saw the prisoner being taken to the carriage.

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defence." The mayor then committed him to take his trial at the Berkshire Assizes on a charge of high treason. The prisoner was then removed from court, and will be retaken to Reading Gaol to await his trial.

THE TRIAL OF DR. LAMSON.

The trial of Dr. George Henry Lamson, for the murder of his brother-in-law, Percy Malcolm John, at Blenheim House School, Wimbledon, on December 3rd, was resumed on Friday morning before Mr. Justice Hawkins, at the Old Bailey. An Inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department deposed that on the 6th of December he received from the Wimbledon police a box containing five pills and some capsules, also a box marked "quinine powder," from Littlefield, chemist, Ventnor, Isle of Wight. The box contained six large powders and fourteen small ones, numbered 7 to 20 inclusive. He had also received half a Dundee cake, some preserved fruit, and a portion of white powdered sugar. He had also received from Superintendent Williamson a box containing two pills. All those articles he handed to Dr. Stevenson, of Guy's Hospital. He also received a bottle containing some sherry, and took it to Dr. Stevenson. Drs. Bond, Stevenson, and Dupré witness, and deposed to the receipt of various articles from the police for the purposes of analysis.

Dr. Thomas Bond, recalled, deposed, I am a bachelor of medicine and lecturer at Westminster Hospital. I do not lecture on toxicology. I have had large experience in the analysis of poisons, and have examined a number of cases of poisoning, and have made about a dozen in cases of persons who have died from poison. I have not been consulted much in cases where people have been poisoned, and never in criminal cases. I received a box from the police on December 6th in the presence of Drs. Berry and Little. I agree with the evidence they have given as to the post-mortem appearances. That evidence, however, omits to mention that the whole of the lungs were somewhat congested, I received from Dr. Bond and Little an account of the symptoms they had observed during the illness of the deceased. Taking into consideration that account and the post-mortem appearances, there was nothing in my judgment to account for death from natural causes. In my judgment the death was caused by poison. The description of poison used was, I thought, a vegetable alkaloid. Vegetable alkaloids act in various ways. Aconitine is one of the vegetable alkaloids. A fatal dose of aconitine could, I have no doubt, be contained in one of the capsules produced. The appearances I saw on the post-mortem examination were consistent with the supposition that death had been caused by a dose of aconitine.

With regard to curvature, the principal curvature was in the lower part of the body. There was some curvature forward in the upper part of the spine. There was no such curvature as would affect the position of the heart and lungs relatively to each other. According to my judgment, the principal curvature was in the lower part of the body. There was some curvature forward in the upper part of the spine. There was no such curvature as would affect the position of the heart and lungs relatively to each other. According to my judgment, the principal curvature was in the lower part of the body. There was some curvature forward in the upper part of the spine. There was no such curvature as would affect the position of the heart and lungs relatively to each other. According to my judgment, the principal curvature was in the lower part of the body. There was some curvature forward in the upper part of the spine. 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NICE.—15, QUAI MASSÉNA.

Great Britain.
LONDON, MARCH 14—15, 1882.

PARLIAMENTARY MANNERS.

Parliamentary manners seem rather to justify the too often quoted criticism of the seaman on the natives of a South Sea island. Very recently a well meaning person, in a twaddling book, advised the young to study the courtesy of Parliamentary manners. If the young really model themselves on Mr. Healy, Mr. Biggar, Lord Eustace Cecil, and Lord Percy, they will find themselves regarded with dismay in decent society. In the long wrangles of Monday night members seem to have lost their tempers, and to have forgotten their manners rather more than usual. We do not know that any one, as has happened now and then in the last three years, used words which the Captain in *Pinafore* employed, "never, or hardly ever." No one seems to have "sworn" in a sense not required of Mr. Bradlaugh. But the Speaker had to rebuke language which would have been deemed unseemly in a barge debating society. If debating societies are frequented by barons, Mr. Sexton described treatment to which he had been subjected in prison, and we cannot easily express our sense of its inhumanity, even if Mr. Sexton had been imprisoned on a criminal charge. Turnkeys are officials, all officials are pestilential fellows in a general way, and turnkeys seem to be apt to abuse their opportunities. Accepting Mr. Sexton's evidence, this is the conclusion which we should draw. But Mr. Biggar drew quite another conclusion. He accused Mr. Forster of "taking the most of his delight in administering the Coercion Act." As the Coercion Act is represented as diabolically cruel in its administration, we must presume that Mr. Biggar thinks Mr. Forster diabolically cruel. Mr. Forster is a fiend in human shape, a kind of Quilp, in fact, who takes pleasure in preventing the suspects from playing at marbles, and in forbidding Mr. Parnell to knock down at law. Some ladies had sent chess and marbles (including, we trust, "commemories" and "ally tors") to Kilmainham, and the prisoners were not allowed to use these toys. They were fed on "corrodious beef," which Mr. Healy says, has all the qualities of the beef supplied by Mr. Squeers to his pupils, except tenderness. All this is a very revolting account of Kilmainham, and, if the account be strictly accurate, we trust that changes may be introduced into the management of that prison. But Mr. Biggar went too far when he said that the administration of the Coercion Act was a source of intense delight and sparkling joy to Mr. Forster. Mr. Biggar's sayings fall into the category of the infinitely little. They are of no importance in themselves, but if almost any one else behaved like Mr. Biggar the dignity of the House might suffer seriously. Mr. Biggar was by no means the only offender. Mr. Healy expressed doubts as to whether Mr. Forster had "the heart of a man," a sort of scepticism which cannot surprise Mr. Forster, and by this time has probably ceased to irritate him. We never hear of Mr. Healy or his friends expressing any indignation when the midnight murderers in Ireland shoot men and women in the legs, and torture beasts and fire at babies. Doubtless Captain Moonlight and his fellows have the hearts of men; at all events Mr. Healy does not seem to have physiological doubts on the subject. It is at least as bad to dump a woman out of bed and fire shots into her legs as to prevent Mr. Parnell from playing at marbles. In the later hours of the debate Lord Eustace Cecil accused Mr. Gladstone of saying the thing that was not by "pretending a public necessity when he was really asserting his own imperious will." Lord Percy was later understood to express the same sort of view of the Prime Minister's veracity. However, it seems that these noblemen meant something else, and both withdrew their remarks with a promptitude equal to that which moves Mr. Biggar's withdrawals. Perhaps all these amenities are not worse than the amenities are accustomed to in days when Burke criticised Lord North's legs who he declared to be unbearably thick. In the old Irish Parliament, when Grattan commented on his opponents' noses, and when a member was alluded to as the "white-livered coward shivering on the floor," Mr. Biggar would have seemed, perhaps, the pink of courtesy. It is not certain that our Parliamentary manners are much worse than they were in the days of duelling. Then a man could not easily "withdraw" his words, as Mr. Biggar does so readily now, because he would have been suspected of an aversion to "going out" in the militant, not in the social, sense of the term. By this time we might have had to lament the loss of Mr. Biggar if pistols were still the means of settling questions of etiquette. But perhaps not even Fighting Fitzgerald would have gone out with Mr. Biggar.—*Daily News*.

THE LAMSON POISONING CASE.

George Henry Lamson was convicted and sentenced to death on Tuesday. The decision of the jury is one which must have been anticipated by all who observed the evidence with care, and who observed how completely this evidence was left uncontradicted by the defence. It would be difficult to find an example in which the

proof of criminality was more complete, supposing it to be left practically uncontradicted in any important particular; and as soon as it became manifest that the statements made by the chemists employed by the Home Office would not be disputed, there could scarcely be a doubt of the ultimate decision. The crime had, indeed, been so clumsily planned as almost to insure the detection of the perpetrator; and it might have been plausibly contended that no one possessed of medical knowledge, even to a very moderate extent, would have been likely to administer so powerful a poison as acconitine in a manner which must necessarily connect it with his presence. The career of the prisoner, however, had been of such a kind as to add to the many examples which show that a tendency to criminality is often associated with shortsightedness and folly. Circumstances in his history, which were not referred to by the prosecution, although sufficiently well known, were calculated to show an inconsiderateness in minor offences of a kind strictly analogous to that which was displayed in the crime by which his life has been forfeited. On going to Bournemouth to practise Lamson set forth that he was a Doctor of Medicine in the London University, a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and the holder of a Cambridge degree in science, whereas his only claim to be a medical practitioner at all was derived from a licence granted in 1877 by two Edinburgh corporations. Not content with claiming the above-named distinctions in conversation, he attempted to register them, with the natural result that the officials of the Medical Registration Office discovered the fraud, and were probably the channels through which it became known at Bournemouth, where, before the death of Percy John, the prisoner was expelled from the local medical society for the offence of assuming titles to which he had no claim. The abjectness of scrupulousness exhibited in this business would in a neighbouring country have been recorded in the *Acts of Accusation*, and laid before the jury in support of the belief that the person who would commit such an offence would be likely to commit graver offences also; and the absence of skill, the false pretence being one which could not escape detection, assists to explain the clumsiness of the act of poisoning of which he has now been found guilty. The amount of reliance proper to be placed upon the physiological and chemical evidence that the poison administered was acconitine is a question which requires more space than we can now devote to its consideration; but it may be safely assumed, from the absence of contradiction, that the statements of Drs. Stevenson and Dupré were unassailable. Two chemists of high eminence were in attendance at the trial, who had themselves experimented upon the questions at issue, the trial having been delayed for this express purpose, and they listened attentively to the evidence for the prosecution. If they could have suggested a flaw in the analytical processes described, or if they could in any way have diminished the effect of the chemical evidence, they would certainly have been called; and the fact that they were not called justifies the belief that this evidence was incontrovertible. Assuming, then, that the poison administered was acconitine, there is the clearest proof that acconitine was in the possession of the prisoner; and there has been no suggestion that it was in the possession of any other person by or from whom it could have been conveyed to the deceased. Acconitine is not a common substance which people buy and sell without notice or recollection. It is one of the most deadly of known poisons, it is expensive, and it would not be supplied by a careful druggist to any customer of whose medical character he did not feel secure. If acconitine had been procured by the deceased himself, or by any member of Mr. Bedbrook's household, there would have been no difficulty in proving the purchase; for it is one of the advantages of the publicity of English jurisprudence that it always brings to light facts of such a nature. There is, therefore, no escape from the conclusion that the deceased was poisoned by acconitine, and that the acconitine was administered to him by the prisoner; and the only doubt which could remain is whether the administration was designed or accidental. In favour of the former belief there is the motive, pitifully small as it seems, of release from pecuniary embarrassment; and against the latter there is the fact of the deadly potency of the agent, which would render it second nature for any medically educated person to dispose of it in such a manner that no accident could possibly arise. The prisoner would have known that this was a poison which he purchased at Allen and Haubury's was enough to destroy the lives of forty people; and to use such a powerful poison carelessly, so that it might be introduced into a capsule by accident, would be scarcely less criminal than its deliberate administration. The case is a valuable illustration of what cannot be too widely known and remembered—namely, that the production of death by poison is one of the most perfidious forms of murder; and that poisoners, if they do for a time escape, owe their immunity chiefly to want of observation on the part of those by whom their victims are attacked. Even when the poison is taken by expert, and by poison little known beyond the limits of the medical profession, the crime leaves traces distinctly legible to those who will be at the trouble of looking for them; and the conviction of Lamson, by bringing this truth into prominence, may contribute to the safety of many lives which his acquittal would have placed in peril.—*Times*.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WARK.—It is stated to have been definitely arranged by the English Roman Catholic authorities, with the sanction of the Holy See, that the present diocese of Southwark, which is of such great extent as to be unwieldy for the purposes of administration, shall be so divided as to form three dioceses instead of one. The new sees are to be those of Arundel and Portsmouth, the former embracing a large portion of the south-eastern county, and being endowed, it is expected, by the Duke of Norfolk, and the latter taking in the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands, which at present are parts of the diocese of Southwark. The metropolitan see would include, it is stated, the whole of South London, the county of Surrey, and parts of Kent and Hampshire. According to this arrangement, two newly-created prelates—the Bishops of Arundel and of Portsmouth—would be added to the Roman Catholic hierarchy of England and Wales, making the number fifteen instead of thirteen, as at present constituted.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock. The Earl of RESSAULT, in presenting a petition in favour of his Parliamentary Declaration Bill, said he had fixed the second reading of it for Thursday week. He hoped that noble lords would come to the consideration of the bill without prejudice, and would not resist it at all as a party matter. The Settled Land Bill and the Conveyancing Bill, introduced by Lord CAIRNS, passed through Committee. On the report of the latter bill Lord CAIRNS urged an objection to the clause obliging the office for taking the acknowledgments of married women. He suggested that the existence of this office was often a great protection to the property of married women: Lord Cairns answered that although the bill passed through their Lordships' House last year the objection raised by Lord Cairns was now put forward for the first time. The present system had long been regarded as an expensive one, for which there was no real necessity, and it would be rendered even less necessary by the Lord Chancellor's bill for the better protection of the property of married women.

The reports of both the bills were received. The LORD CHANCELLOR, in reply to Lord Stanley of Alderley, said he thought the Commissioners who inquired into the Maclesfield election were fully justified in finding that Captain Pearson had committed bribery under the Act. Captain Pearson had an opportunity of making his explanation to the Commissioners and had done so before their finding. In these circumstances, drawing a distinction laid down by the Act, he had felt it his duty to remove that gentleman from the Commission of the Peace. The three other magistrates consulted by the Commissioners had not and could not legally have been found to have committed bribery or any other legal offence. He had strictly followed precedent and only given effect to the Act in support of his finding. Their Lordships adjourned at six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock. Sir A. ORMEY gave notice, amid some cheering from both sides, that on Thursday he will put certain questions to the Irish Secretary in regard to the treatment of the "suspended" men in the County of Wick. The number of hours of solitary confinement.

In answer to Mr. LEWIS, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL said that the Government had no intention of moving a new writ for Oxford, whereupon Mr. LEWIS gave notice that he would move a resolution on Thursday, and Mr. T. COLLINS added that he would oppose it.

Mr. HARCOURT gave notice that on the adjourned debate on procedure he resumed the subject of the petition of the *Whitby* and proceeded further with the subject to the postponement of other business of more importance to the country.

In answer to Mr. DILLWY, who asked for an extension of the time granted to the *Bassett* for the completion of the *Whitby* and forwarded to them, Mr. Courtney said the matter rested entirely with the Cape Government.

In answer to an appeal from Mr. ANDERSON, Mr. Gladstone declined to postpone the *Whitby* resolution until after the next day (Wednesday) at question time and Rule 12 (Supply on Mondays).

Mr. BROADBENT brought before the House the grievance of the Navy fitters, who complain that work which properly belongs to them in the construction of men-of-war is entrusted to shipwrights, to the detriment of the public service (of which he gave several instances) and he moved a resolution condemning the present practice of putting men to work to which they are untrained, and of placing superintending men of inferior authority over workmen with whose trades they have no practical acquaintance. Mr. Slagg seconded the motion.

Mr. TRAYLOR, in reply on behalf of the Admiralty, pointed out that to carry the motion would compel the discharge of a large number of shipwrights and would embarrass the superintendents in the distribution of the work of the Dockyards. No doubt the shipwrights originally were workers in wood, and since the construction of men-of-war has changed to iron, the character of their training has also changed, and a large proportion of them—though still called shipwrights—were workers in iron. According to the testimony of the Construction Department they were not only untrained, but they were not even in possession of technical knowledge to the fitters. The great majority of them were on the permanent establishment, of which they were proud, and it was a matter of life and death to the country that it should have a large body of skilled workmen who were not only untrained, but were not even in possession of technical knowledge to the fitters. The great majority of them were on the permanent establishment, of which they were proud, and it was a matter of life and death to the country that it should have a large body of skilled workmen who were not only untrained, but were not even in possession of technical knowledge to the fitters.

A strong feeling exists amongst the Kent magistrates at the removal to Westminster of what is known as the Yalding murder case. De Widdowson has undertaken to bring the matter under the notice of the Home Secretary.

Mr. T. B. POTTER, M.P., has received from Mr. Poulton Bigelow, the Cobden Club correspondent in New York, a letter informing him that the Cobden Club has been stopped in their passage through the American post-office, and made subject to the payment of a duty. Although many volumes of the Cobden Club have been posted to the United States, no such unfriendly attack upon English literature has been known since Mr. Bigelow states that a tax of twenty cents is being levied upon the volume of essays on local government and taxation which Mr. Probyn lately edited.

FASHIONABLE NEWS.

Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) and the Duke of Albany visited the Prince and Princess of Wales on Tuesday, and remained to luncheon.

The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough have arrived at Thomas's Hotel from Bloomsbury Palace.

The Earl and Countess of Dunraven and family have arrived at 5, Chesterfield-gardens, for the parliamentary season.

Viscountess Combermere and Hon. Mrs. Hunter arrived at Lady Combermere's house in Belgrave-square on Tuesday, from passing the winter at St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Mr. and Lady Georgiana Peel have arrived at Thomas's Hotel.

Mr. Richard and Lady Mary Arkwright have arrived in town for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Mahomed have arrived at 25, George-street, Hanover-square, for the season. The death is announced of Lady Lytton, as having taken place at her residence at Sydenham, on Sunday. The deceased lady, Rosina Lytton, who was born in 1804, and was the only surviving daughter of the late Mr. Francis Massy Wheeler, of Lizard Connell, county Limerick, a grandson of the first Baron Massy. She married, in 1827, the late distinguished novelist, Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton, afterwards created first Baron Lytton, who died in 1873. By this union there was but one child, the present Lord Lytton.

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political friends in May, 1880. He married in 1841 Sarah Harland, daughter of Mr. Thomas Fourson, of Willow Hall, York. He is succeeded in the baronetcy by his only son, Major James Bourne, of the 5th (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) Dragoon Guards, married to Lady Marian, only daughter of the late Lord and sister of the present Marquis of Ely.

The death is announced from diptheria, at Philadelphia, of Lord George Francis Montagu, youngest brother of the Duke of Manchester. He was nominated an attaché in 1876, and after being employed for some months in the Foreign-office, was appointed to Constantinople in January, 1878. He was promoted to be a Third Secretary in June, 1879.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.") The proposal for the increased annuity to Prince Leopold will probably be brought before the House of Commons on Tuesday. It is said that between forty and fifty members of the Radical Party will vote against the proposal.

The Lords' Committee to inquire into the working of the Irish Land Act met again on Tuesday. All the members of the Committee, including Earl Cairns arriving about half an hour late. Mr. Overend, of Dublin, a barrister and agent, was the only witness examined. The Committee adjourned till Thursday, when Mr. Townsend, of Dublin, and Mr. Simon Little, of Wexford, will attend to give evidence.

The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Henry Lock, K.C.B., Governor of the Isle of Man, to the Commission of the Peace for the County of Devon and Forests vacant by the death of the Hon. James K. Howard.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.") The Prime Minister was, with a brief interval, in the House of Commons on Monday-Tuesday for eleven hours. He was punctually in his place on Tuesday afternoon at half-past four, having left the House at four o'clock the same morning.

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We learn that Mr. Gorst has the first place on the notice paper for his North Borneo motion on Friday, he intends to bring it forward on that evening. The debate is expected to be a long one. It is probable that Mr. Dillwyn, who has given notice of a motion on the same subject, will make his speech in the debate on Mr. Gorst's motion.

We understand that some of the electors of Northampton contemplate taking up the case of Mr. Bradlaugh in a somewhat novel fashion. One matter under consideration is the expediency of applying for a mandamus to compel him to perform his Parliamentary duties. It is believed that such an application has never been made in a court of law.

We understand that the engineers have met with unexpected obstacles in piercing the Channel Tunnel. Whilst they were at work the other day was a stratum of rock a little softer than the rest. It has been successfully gone through, and the engines are now at work upon the same soft grey chalk impervious to moisture which they first struck.

A number of "Old Westminster" and others interested in the School, have submitted to the Prime Minister a reply to the memorial of the "Committee for the Defence of Westminster Abbey." This consists largely of a flat contradiction of the statement made in the memorial. It depreciates inquiry on the ground that it is not necessary, would involve useless expense and trouble, and would injure the School.

Amongst the signatures are those of the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Salisbury, Lord Chester, Lord Richard Grosvenor, and Mr. James Lowther.

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usher. When the prisoner again endeavored to stand upright it seemed as if he would fall, but the anxiety of the police officers—one on each side and one behind—to give him support roused him a little, and he seemed to wish them to leave him alone. When asked to stand upright he said, "I feel a sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he folded his arms, held himself upright, and said, in a firm voice, 'Merely to protest my innocence before God.' During a brief, terrible pause the prisoner, standing with downcast head, and again seeking support on the front of the dock, was observed furiously to watch the horribly significant action of the Judge as he placed the black cap on his head, and then to shut his eyes, to change colour, and to show signs of a disposition to swoon as the Judge began to pronounce the dread sentence. Recovering himself again at the renewed consciousness of the conspicuous support being rendered him by the police officers, he bowed slightly at Mr. Justice Hawkins's statement that the law commanded him to pass the sentence of death. The Judge mercifully refrained from aggravating the torture of the prisoner with many words; the few he uttered were apparently as trying to the prisoner as the formal sentence with its horrid detail as to the disposal of the body in the precincts of the prison, was soon pronounced, and the doomed man was half led, half carried out of the dock.

THE FIGHTING GANGS OF LONDON.

The fighting gangs of London have an organisation almost as complete as that of the police. Each gang has its captain, who, again, has his junior officers. A certain order is only preserved, and no member of the band is under certain responsibilities as to the spoils; for the gangs are by no means organised simply for the purpose of fighting each other. That is a pleasant delusion which helps to reconcile the London police to the fact of their existence. The majority of the members of these organisations—youths whose ages range from about sixteen to twenty-two—are, plainly and simply, thieves. There are bodies of young men who roam about at night simply for the sake of mischief, and whose playful violence frequently has unpleasant results; but when the regular gangs fight it is for mastery. It is not unfrequently happens that one set, beat on the extension of its territory, invades the district of another. Then there has to be some sort of rectification of frontier, brought about by the usual process. Recently there was such a conflict between the Dove-row gang and the Bow-commoners, in which the Dove-row gang came off victorious. Such incidents as these, however, are more episodes in the great epic of juvenile crime. The object of the gangs is robbery, if necessary with violence. "What do you do at nights?" I said recently, to a youth who had been a member of one of these bodies of juvenile ruffians. "What did they do? Why, they waited about, and if anybody respectable passed they tripped him up and robbed him."

"Did they use violence sometimes?" "He should think they did. They were brags, those who had generally left home and went to lodgings. They lodged together, mostly two or three of them in one place. They didn't read much; very few of them could read; perhaps one would read to the others sometimes. Didn't know that they had any books, but they had many a time knocked people down."

"Yes," he said, in reply to another question, "they fought other gangs now and then to see who was strongest. Some of them had been in prison lots of times; they didn't mind it much—they got used to it. Had Lord Beaumont, which are the New-cut or Bow-common-lane for the time being, and was trying to lead a better life."

The fighting gangs are mainly composed of lads who, if they have ever done any work, have found the conditions of labour neither sufficiently pleasant nor sufficiently profitable. Utterly ignorant and untrained, they seem to see a kind of heroism in their present mode of life. Their spirit is much the same as that which animated the buccannier and the brigand. Punishment merely hardens their hearts. The violence which they are capable of is a shameful waste of the "pluck" and endurance. It is not merely during the last year or two that the gangs have come into existence. On the contrary, many of them have existed for years. They are the regular leaders of the various criminal populations of London.

When a thief has age or experience enough to stand alone he leaves the gang and embarks in private ventures. Probably his maturity comes upon him in jail. He is too old to go back to the gang again; the "Wild Boy" period has passed over, and he dwells the New-cut or Bow-common-lane for the time being, and was trying to lead a better life."

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PARIS, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

NOTICE.

A four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.

Great Britain.

LONDON, MARCH 15—16, 1882.

RUSSIA, AUSTRIA, AND GERMANY.

The exclusion of Russia from the Austro-German Alliance is a factor in European politics second only in importance to the Austro-German alliance itself. The negotiations and the intrigues of last year have proved unavailing. General Skobeleff has received a belittling rebuke from the Czar for his indiscreet and aggressive frankness of speech; but the fact remains that he spoke the truth, and that this is recognised not less in Germany than in Russia. It is perfectly open to Russia at any moment to take a step which Germany would regard as a *casus belli*; but we think it in the highest degree improbable that she will do anything of the sort. If, indeed, she were to wage on a more demonstrative scale than she has hitherto done the "unofficial war" against Austria in the Herzegovina and in other parts of the Balkan Peninsula—if, in fact, she were to repeat the tactics which she adopted towards Turkey in the critical moment of her embarrassments six years ago, the inevitable and speedy result would be a rupture of diplomatic relations between Berlin and St. Petersburg. We speak within the limits of our positive knowledge when we say that the Russian Government have been thoroughly enlightened by Germany on this matter. The Vienna correspondent has given an abstract of an article which has just appeared in the *Politische Correspondenz*, discussing the possibility of an occupation of the Balkans by Turkish troops. "Such an occupation," he says, "at the present moment without any palpable reason, would meet with the very strongest opposition from the Powers—an opposition which it is very unlikely the Sultan will face." We go no further than this. We can say that the Porte has actually made this suggestion to Germany, and that Prince Bismarck has replied that it could only be permissible on the most violent hypothesis, that something like a concentration of Russian troops took place on the north of the Balkans. The meaning of this is obvious. The German Chancellor is quite willing to keep the military temper of Turkey a few degrees above zero. What he has no intention of doing is to precipitate a war. He has, therefore, given the Porte to understand that it must confine its action within certain strictly-defined limits—for the present. The Turks are willing, are perhaps anxious, to kindle a general conflagration. Prince Bismarck has decided that if there is to be such a conflagration, the match shall be applied by Russia. He has, as we have said, told Russia how she may do this if she will—since he has told her what she is to abstain from doing. We believe that the Czar—General Skobeleff and General Ignatieff notwithstanding—will not disregard this intimation. Indeed, there is no doubt that the measure of Russian encouragement which they had already received is in process of being withdrawn from the insurgent tribes in the Herzegovina. But though for these reasons we do not anticipate any immediate re-opening of the Eastern Question in its acutest form, and though we are satisfied that the hostile demonstrations now being exchanged between Germany and Russia are for practical purposes of little more than newspaper significance, the real gravity of the situation remains. The present state of things between Austria and Germany on the one hand, and Russia on the other amounts to this—that the two parties (for it is only with two that we have to deal) are awaiting the moment they may find most convenient for initiating hostile action. We have said nothing of France and Italy. The differences between these two countries are many and great, but they are temporarily suspended, and while this continues the case, an additional influence makes itself felt on the side of peace among the Powers of Eastern Europe. No one can pretend to estimate too nicely the value of this influence, in view of the ominous circumstance that the balance as between Germany and Russia is so delicately adjusted that the accident of an accident might disturb it. Diplomacy, however skilled, possesses no safeguard against mistakes and misapprehensions. The indiscretion of an individual—the ebullience, for instance, of another Skobeleff—might upset all the most careful combinations of Cabinets. All that can be said is that there is an imminent risk of war between Germany and Russia, for the simple reason that war would just now be highly inconvenient to both. Prince Bismarck, moreover, is known to entertain the opinion, which is certainly strongly held in Russia itself, that a great international struggle would be of real internal advantage to the Empire of the Czar, and that domestic conspiracy and disintegration may only too probably accomplish all, and more than all, the ruin that would be the consequence of a great military defeat. The preservation of peace, in a word, is a matter that largely depends upon the tact and influence which diplomacy and statesmanship can assert. They are highly tempered and delicate instruments; and it would be the height of folly to trust to them overmuch.—*Standard*.

MR. TENNYSON'S PATRIOTIC SONG.

Mr. Tennyson's patriotic song, which Mr. Santley sang at the St. James's Hall on Wednesday night, is a fine spirited piece of verse, and appeals to men of every party except extreme cratchetters on both sides. The lines are not new, at least not entirely new. The first verse of the three formed part of a comparatively long poem published in a periodical more than twenty years ago. In that poem Mr. Tennyson (as Merlin), dreading danger from the ambition of the French Emperor, appealed to "our Giant Daughter of the West" to aid the effete old country. About the same time the poet Boker, an American lyricist, composed a sonnet, in which he said the Cossack would shake his spear across the Channel, put us all in a fright, and make us appeal to our "Giant Daughter." The events foreseen in vision by Boker have not yet occurred, and it is not at all certain that America would for our sake mix herself up in a European quarrel. But, as Mr. Ten-

nyson's poem reminds us all, England has other children who, in her hour of need, may prove "great allies." He bids us drink to "the strong New England of the Southern Pole," and we cannot have better backers in trouble than the countrymen of Spofforth and the gigantic Bonnar. The Australians are men of their hands, as the old writers say, and full of the strength and spirit of a young people, or an equestrian people—like the Abipones—at home in the saddle, and accustomed to the use of the rifle. Some of them were anxious to volunteer for a brush with the Boers. May they fight with us some day in a better cause, if fighting there must be. Mr. Tennyson also "carries a toast" "to England under Indian skies, to those dark millions of her realm," to Ghoorkas and Sikhs whose military honours may almost match with any that Scotch, or Irish, or Welsh have won beneath our flag. Canada, too, as Mr. Tennyson says, "we love and prize, whatever statesman hold the helm," whether Lord Dufferin or Lord Lorne. Never may the Canadians have to meet a foe more formidable than the demoralised Fenians of a few years ago. But when they do come to fight we trust they will deserve the praise which some one in "Martin Chuzzlewit" bestowed on a client—"will he may be—so are our l'ars;" and may their enemies find them as uncompromising as their native grizzlies. Mr. Tennyson says nothing about our colonies in South Africa—not very great allies perhaps; and it is rather too soon to call a toast to the North Germans. But we are pleased to honour that which Mr. Tennyson claims for the "great cause of Freedom," and "the great nation of England." When politicians who claim patriotism as a monopoly wanted to make the cause of slavery the cause of England, Mr. Tennyson chose the moment to publish his sonnet to the Montenegrins, then at war with the gallant Turk. Mr. Tennyson, like most English poets, is a sturdy friend of freedom, a stout lover of England, and, at least in his verse, anything but a party man. If he was for the Montenegrins against the Turks, for the Poles against the Russians, for the best and worst of men, as he called them, if many does not fail us, in a very early sonnet. Reflection convinces the calm thinker that there is little sense in calling any race of people the lowest of the low. Even in that old sonnet, however, Mr. Tennyson recognised the facts of history. If Russia was crushing Poland, the time had been when Poland oppressed Russia, and Moscow heard the echoes of the Polish war. Poets are rather apt to forget these circumstances. Mr. Tennyson's patriotism used to find expression in some very much needed odes about "our great ally," when "only the Devil knew what he meant." As to home affairs, his attitude has been that of a Liberal who disliked "the red fool-fury of the Seine," and "the blind hysterics of the Celt." His ideal statesman has been a man who enables freedom to "broaden slowly down from precedent to precedent," and who "takes occasion by the hand, and makes the bonds of freedom broader still." In last night's song Mr. Tennyson's definition of the "true Conservative" does not apply to extreme party-men—say to Mr. Warton:—

"The man the true Conservative
Who looms the moulded branch away.
Precisely, but what a number of Conservatives there are who decline to admit that any branches are mouldered. Was the Irish Church mouldered? Has the House of Lords begun to show signs of being a little mouldy, or so? To these questions different answers will be given, and we cannot but doubt whether there be many Tories who are "true Conservatives," in Mr. Tennyson's sense of the word.—*Daily News*.

THE COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH FRANCE.

Further correspondence has been published respecting the attempted negotiation of a new commercial treaty between Great Britain and France. The present blue-book brings down the negotiations for the proposed treaty to their close on February 28, with a declaration prolonging the existing Anglo-French treaties, except as to tariff stipulations, until May 15, and with a Convention for regulating the commercial and maritime relations between the two countries. Under the now-existing law, goods of English origin or manufacture are liable on their entry into France to the same transit duties as those of the most favoured nations; but this provision is not applicable to colonial produce, which remains subject to the general Customs tariff.

On March 4, Lord Lyons writes to offer Earl Granville:—

"My best thanks for deputation Mr. Crowe to assist me in the communications with the French Government respecting the proposed commercial treaty, which I was directed to undertake by your despatch of the 10th ultimo. Mr. Crowe's judgment and tact, as well as his activity, and, I may add, patience, in the difficult and discouraging circumstances in which the negotiation has been carried on have been most remarkable."

Earl Granville in like manner expresses to Lord Lyons:—

"The appreciation of her Majesty's Government of the services which you have rendered in the course of these negotiations, and in the conclusion of the treaty which was signed on the 28th of last month. I feel that your Excellency's efforts have been of great value in procuring the ultimate conclusion of an arrangement, and, both on this account and for the support which you have been able to give to the British Commissioners during a long and difficult negotiation, they request you to accept their best acknowledgments and thanks."

The blue-book closes with the following despatch, in which the Foreign Secretary acknowledges the services of the Royal Commissioners for conducting the French commercial negotiations:—

"Gentlemen,—On the termination of the commercial negotiations with France, I desire to express the entire satisfaction of her Majesty's Government with your proceedings, and to convey their thanks for the manner in which you conducted these negotiations, and for the advice and assistance which you have afforded, since the close of the sittings of the Joint Commission, in the arrangement which has now been come to with the French Government."

The result of these communications, although it has not realized the wishes of her Majesty's Government for an amelioration of the *status quo*, was anticipated as a very possible contingency in my instructions to you of the 24th of May last. In that despatch I set forth the grounds on which an expectation might be entertained that, in the interest alike of the French Treasury and people, even if an actual advance in the direction of free

trade should not be resolved upon, certain duties, such as those on yarns, which foster French industry, and which can scarcely defray the expense of collection, might be abandoned by the French Government. But I stated at the same time that the answers returned to notes exchanged preliminary to formal negotiations, as well as the manner in which these negotiations had been opened, did not appear very favourable to a speedy and satisfactory agreement. From the nature of the duties discussed, it was not left to you, I suggested the expediency of the opinion of her Majesty's Government, might be adopted with advantage to give effect to the basis of "amelioration du *status quo*," and the development of relations commercial."

The refusal of the French Commissioners to maintain *ad valorem* duties rendered it more necessary for you to consult the trades affected by the proposed changes of classification and rates of duty in the French tariff, and I desire to express my sense of the industry with which you made yourselves acquainted with the views of different branches of commerce in the United Kingdom, and also of the care and patience with which you brought their representations before the French Commission, and urged full consideration of them. When the French Government declined to accede to your proposals for the maintenance of the *status quo*, or to agree to maintain temporarily at least, *ad valorem* duties for the description of goods with respect to which an understanding had not been come to, no agreement on matters of tariff could, as I had anticipated as a possible contingency in my despatch of the 21st of May, be arrived at.

In the end, as I also anticipated in this event, an arrangement has been made by the French Government for most-favoured-nation treatment in regard to Customs duties on imports from the United Kingdom, and a treaty has been concluded for the purpose of the stipulations of the existing treaties relative to subjects, shipping, trade marks, and certain other matters.

Under the circumstances, her Majesty's Government are satisfied that the country will consider the whole result as not unwelcome; and, although special tariff stipulations have not been renewed, the conciliation and firmness which you displayed in the negotiation contributed largely to the final arrangements.—I am, etc.,

GRANVILLE.

The following correspondence has also taken place on this subject:—

"St. Etienne, March 8.
"From the President of the Chamber of Commerce to the President of the Chamber of Commerce of St. Etienne.
"Sir, The Chamber of Commerce of St. Etienne is desirous to see the commercial relations between France and England maintained as in the past, and, if possible, still further developed. It is with regret that it has to see the negotiation for a new Treaty of Commerce have fallen through. The Chamber does not possess the information to enable it to understand the cause of this rupture. It would seem as if the English regarded their interests as labouring under a disadvantageous position, and that the Chamber of Commerce here would esteem it a favour, Sir, if you would furnish some information with proof in support, which would enable it to place this question before the French Government, and to prove, in fact, that England could not accept what has been proposed, seeing it was an aggravation of the policy which has existed since 1860."

"The Chamber of Commerce here would be very glad to hear from you, whether the commercial interests of England would not be satisfied with the continuation, pure and simple, of the Treaty as it has existed since 1860. This appears to be the most rational basis on which negotiations could be renewed."

"F. Gewert, President of the Chamber of Commerce."

"Bradford Chamber of Commerce, Exchange, Bradford, March 14.

"Sir—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed letter of the 8th, and on the part of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce to assure you that we share your regret at the rupture of the Treaty negotiations. The documents which accompany this letter, and the present state of the negotiations, are not taken by the French Commissioners or to the British Commissioners, or to the Chambers of Commerce, whose opinions they necessarily consulted. Both fully appreciated the serious effect of prolonged uncertainty upon the commercial relations of the two countries, and the official papers show that both were throughout animated by the most conciliatory spirit. If anywhere, the cause of the rupture must be traced to the protectionist views of the French negotiators. Her Majesty's Government went even so far as to object in principle to the substitution of specific rates for *ad valorem* duties, although they were fully convinced of the impossibility of weight duties acting fairly towards the majority of the textiles produced in this district. It is not, however, to be supposed that the new Treaty must be an improvement upon that of 1860. This Chamber has done everything in its power to assist the joint Commission to arrive at a practical solution of the problem how to arrange a specific tariff in such a manner as to be more onerous than one based upon the purely *ad valorem* principle. It was at infinite pains in the preparation of samples, prices, and calculations of averages, and it is a painful and tedious task, and it is not taken by the French Commissioners or to the offers to substantiate the accuracy of those data. Without entering into matters which are so fully discussed in the official documents, I may mention that proposals were made in the Commission of which were carefully studied by the Tariff Committee of this Chamber, with the result that even their last proposal was found to impose duties varying from 12% to 20% per cent. on the value of the bulk of Bradford exports to France. Her Majesty's Government being pledged not to depart from the policy which has now for thirty-six years been the guide of British fiscal legislation, had no choice but to refuse any retrograde step, and to insist on a retrogression from free trade principles. And this district, which is more than any other interested in the trade with France, has thanked her Majesty's Government for their decision rather to break off the negotiations than agree to a retrograde step. In answer to the last question asked in your esteemed letter, I am instructed to state that this Chamber would be glad to see the negotiations re-opened, but with the distinct understanding that the discussion shall be confined to the maintenance of the *status quo*, as proposed by Mr. Leon Say on behalf of the French Government, and accepted by Lord Granville on behalf of that of her Majesty. While we do not presume to press our views on fiscal and commercial policy upon foreign countries, her Majesty's Government merely obeys the universal opinion of the United Kingdom in declining to bind its hand for a term of years by signing a non-progressive treaty. In conclusion, I beg to assure you that this Chamber has received with pleasure and gratification the assurance that you impart a body as the Chamber of Commerce of St. Etienne shares its appreciation of the value of maintaining and extending the existing commercial relations between the two countries, and am, Sir, yours truly,

"F. Gewert, Esq., President, Chamber of Commerce, St. Etienne."

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

MR. MCLEAN moved the second reading of the Municipal Franchise (Ireland) Bill, the object of which is to assimilate the franchise in Ireland to the English franchise. Mr. W. E. Forster accepted the principle of the bill; but Mr. G. Lewis denounced it as a democratic measure and a degradation of the franchise; while Mr. Plunket thought that little interest was felt in the matter by householders and owners of property. Several Irish members spoke in favour of the bill, and in the end it was read a second time.

MR. FIDDLER moved the second reading of the County Courts (Ireland) Bill, the object of which is to facilitate appeals in equity cases from the County Courts to the High Court, and to give the Attorney General for Ireland the right to appeal, as the Lord Chancellor had recently made an order enlarging the jurisdiction of the Vice-Chancellor, and ultimately the debate was adjourned.

MR. MONK moved the second reading of the Judgments (Inferior Courts) Bill, the object of which is to make valid in each of the three kingdoms the judgments pronounced in the inferior Courts of the others. It is, in fact, an extension of the Act of 1873, which allows the judgments of the Supreme Courts to run throughout the United Kingdom, and is an effort towards the assimilation of the law of the three kingdoms. The Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General for Ireland supported the bill while the Lord Advocate thought it would require some modification.

MR. H. PALMER, MR. WARTON, MR. CALLAN, and others spoke, and ultimately the Bill was read a second time.

MR. FORSTER next moved the second reading of the Land Law Act (1881) Amendment Bill, which proposes that when an originating notice has been lodged the Court may of its own motion send down two valuers to view the property and to ascertain a fair rent. The report would be forwarded to the Court, notice would be given to both parties, and if neither objected within one month their valuation would become the fair rent. It also provided for the purchase of life interests in land, and the investment of the purchase-money.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL for Ireland said the Government could not assent to the Bill, which would prevent all settlements out of court, obstruct the judicial proceedings, and create a new class of cases for litigation.

MR. PLUNKET, without expressing a decided opinion in regard to the bill, said he would gladly assist in any attempt to diminish the immense costs in which the Land Act had involved both landlord and tenant and also to give an impulse to the purchase of land, which at present had no effect whatever.

Major O'BRIEN warmly denounced the expense of the Land Act as a fraud both on landlord and tenant. Mr. Synan urged the necessity of doing something to relieve the poor, and Mr. O'Shea supported the second reading as an indication of their opinion that something must be done to quicken the hearing of cases.

MR. FORSTER admitted that the Act required the closest attention from the Government and Parliament, but at present it would be premature to make any change. No doubt there was a congestion, and if it did not diminish in a short time it would be necessary to look about for some means of relieving it. Not wishing to exclude this particular mode—though he agreed with the Attorney-General's objections to it—he suggested the adjournment of the debate.

MR. J. LONNIE made some sarcastic comments on the rapid education of the Government in regard to the perfectibility of their Land Act, and congratulated them on the now incontrovertible fact that all sides condemned it, and declared it to be unworkable.

Any change were made it must be by the Government and not by private members, and they ought, therefore, either to accept or oppose this bill.

MR. M. HENRY, acting on the suggestion of Mr. Forster, moved the adjournment of the debate, but the opportunity of inveighing against the administration of the Act, which he said had fallen too much into the hands of the lawyers. The Government, he insisted, were bound to deal immediately with the congestion of business, with arrears, and with evictions.

Colonel NOLAN, MR. DICKSON, MR. MULHOLLAND, and MR. BIGGAR also spoke, urging the shortcomings of the Bill; Mr. Lewis and Sir J. McKenna held out nothing would settle the land question but an extension of the purchase clauses; Mr. Sexton described the Bill as a contemptible measure; and Mr. Healy also spoke of it in a similar strain.

On a division the motion for adjournment was carried, 171 to 86.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at seven minutes to 6 o'clock.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

In the division on Wednesday on the question of the extension of the jurisdiction of the enlarged machinery for the Irish Land Courts, the minority was made up almost entirely of Conservatives. The exceptions were Mr. Healy, Mr. Biggar, and Mr. Callan, who were not to be withdrawn from their alliance by the temporary defection of Mr. J. J. McCarthy, Mr. Richard Power, Mr. Sexton, Mr. Gray, and other of their colleagues.

Mr. Macfarlane has drawn up a memorandum addressed to Mr. Forster, praying for an amelioration of the lot of the suspects in Kilmichael and other Irish prisons. A large number of signatures of Liberal members were obtained on Wednesday.

We understand that Mr. Charles Russell has drawn up a memorial to the Prime Minister, asking the Government to deal in some satisfactory way with the subject of arrears of rent in Ireland. It appears that many influential members have signed this document. There is a clause in the Irish Land Act empowering the Court to advance a certain portion of the arrears of rent, but this has expired, and the clause is practically a dead letter. We hear that a strong feeling exists among members in favour of reviving this clause in the case of landlords and tenants who come to an agreement outside the Court.

Mr. Walford, after conferring with several of his friends on Wednesday, decided that he would not go on with his motion relative to North Borneo, but would explain his views in the forthcoming debate on Mr. Gora's motion.

Mr. Oaslow's question addressed to the Home Secretary, inviting him to exercise his powers to restrict the public fantasies of the body called "the Salvation Army," has called forth five other questions, in which a different view of his duty is pressed upon Sir W. Hart. Three of these will be put by Mr. Cairns, one by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and one by Mr. Mason.

A whip is circulating amongst the "Ancient Monument party" in the House of Commons to oppose the second reading of the Lynn and Skegness Railway Bill. It is alleged that the proposed railway interferes with the cathedral precincts of Norwich, and with the

ancient and historical gateway which stands within them.

MR. F. S. REILLY has been appointed Counsel to the Speaker of the House of Commons, in succession to Mr. Rickards, who has resigned.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

We understand that the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Railway Rates and Fares has before it a proposal to compel Railway Companies to incorporate with all future Bills in Parliament a clause to the following effect:—"In the rate-book in use for the time being at any station of the company, which goods or merchandise are received for transmission, the fixed terminal charge, together with all other terminal charges for services rendered which the Company claims the right to demand shall, in respect of each class of goods, be so stated as to be distinguishable from the mere conveyance or mileage charges."

The Railway representatives on the Committee have got till Friday to consider this proposal, and we understand they are likely to oppose it, on the double ground that it would involve an incalculable amount of labour to distinguish between every article, and that it is unfair to apply such a provision to new Railway schemes without applying it also to those which have already received the sanction of Parliament.

THE LATE LADY LYTTON.

The announcement of the death of the Dowager Countess Lytton will bring with it few associations in the minds of the present generation of readers. One must indeed be somewhat of the young side of middle age to remember the time—it was just while the world was beginning to be aware that "the inimitable" Boz, author of the "Pickwick Papers," was identical with a marvellously clever young author named Charles Dickens—when her first work, "Cheveley; or, the Man of Honour," was published by Mr. Bull, of Holles-street, in the regulation three flimsy volumes of the circulating libraries, much to the delight of the gossips of those days. The book had been long heralded by those artful preliminary announcements in the manufacture of which the paragraph writers of the period certainly exhibited no falling off from the days when Mr. Puff blustered the art to his friends Dangle and Snice. Thus it had become known that "real personages"—and these related to what it was then the fashion to call the "haut ton"—would be found portrayed in its pages under the names of "Cheveley" and "Lady Lytton." The book, however, was not a success, and its appearance gave rise to a good deal of talk. Upon the details of that now happily forgotten episode in the literary history of this reign we have no desire to dwell. The public learnt, what they had already learnt from the "Puff," that the Dowager Countess Lytton had separated from her husband upon some grounds, but of the validity of her indictment they were neither qualified nor called upon to judge. Some critics, shocked by the writer's mode of bringing her domestic grievances, real or imaginary, before the public, visited her proceedings with grave censure; others, impressed with a certain eccentric and excited tone pervading her book, took a more kindly view, and contented themselves with expressing a hope that the author of "Cheveley" would long come to serve with her critics in thinking that her work had better have been withheld from the press. Adverse criticism, however, whether mild or severe, was what Lady Lytton Lytton was not wont to mind to endure, and from that time she devoted herself to a sort of seclusion with "the gentlemen of the Press," whose praise she declared in the dedication to her next work, "The Budget of the Babbie Family," published in 1840, was "a blot and a stain upon my reputation." Her husband may be observed, took no public notice of her writings beyond what was conveyed in the contradiction through his solicitors of a malicious rumour which attributed to him a salacious rejoinder in verse entitled "Lady Cheveley; or, the Woman of Honour," a reference to which he added:—"Whatever the views and objects of the writer may be (probably not inimical to himself, judging by the terms of the announcement), Sir Lytton Lytton is compelled, for the sake of his children, to enter his protest, to enter his most earnest protest against any attempt to prolong or widen the notoriety of a recent publication, which carries its own answer and its own condemnation." From this time the poor lady seems to have become possessed of a fixed idea of a necessity to suppress her talent. Her general indictment of the male sex on these grounds is conveyed in the following characteristic passage from her first novel:—

"On the tree of knowledge, as cultivated in England, women are taught to look upon politics, science, statistics, and mathematics as so many grafts of forbidden fruit, and hence the eternal, not very gallant, query of the other sex, of 'What can women know about such things?' For Englishmen seem to think that the nearest approach to perfection in a wife is to be found alone in those women who are the best possible imitations of automata, and that ignorance is not only the most complete guard to virtue, but that it is the only safe valve for vice. In England there is an inverse ratio of a perfect woman to a young gentleman, fresh from college, who, after having gained the greasy surpluses of the great unwashed of some metropolitan borough, through his dilettaut anathemas against all existing laws, ever so much more indefinitely to appear Cicero, Lycurgus, and Aristides all in one, than does an English woman of common sense to appear as ignorant, and consequently as inferior, to a man of letters. Her novels were often remarked, too, that if a woman ventures to evince any *esprit de corps*, and in defence of the deprecated intellect of her sex, triumphant brings to her defence the names of a De Stael, a More, a Carter, a D'Acier, a Montague, a Bailey, a Martineau, a Gore, etc., etc., some supercilious pedant of the other sex instantly rises to silence her by a contemptuous smile, and an 'All very clever, certainly! but women want that profound which men have not; they prevent their attaining any eminence in science.'"

In France, on the contrary, *les femmes se mêlent de tout*; and I firmly believe that the Salique law only exists because Frenchmen preferring governed by a Republic of women, instead of delegating sovereignty laws, ever so much more indefinitely to appear Cicero, Lycurgus, and Aristides all in one, than does an English woman of common sense to appear as ignorant, and consequently as inferior, to a man of letters. Her novels were often remarked, too, that if a woman ventures to evince any *esprit de corps*, and in defence of the deprecated intellect of her sex, triumphant brings to her defence the names of a De Stael, a More, a Carter, a D'Acier, a Montague, a Bailey, a Martineau, a Gore, etc., etc., some supercilious pedant of the other sex instantly rises to silence her by a contemptuous smile, and an 'All very clever, certainly! but women want that profound which men have not; they prevent their attaining any eminence in science.'"

I suppose the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about Jumbo will come out at last, but, like all great truths—especially when they weigh six tons and cost £2,000—the Jumbo truth is many-sided. The real reason for selling Jumbo, it is now whispered, was not that he was dangerous, or likely soon to become so, or that a new house would have to be built, but that money was wanted to build a new—bush—snake-house. The notion was to run this up quickly out of Jumbo's purchase-money, without any other ado, or publicity, or bother, about funds. The fact is some people think a snake-house is wicked, not only because the Bible says the devil is a snake, and therefore a snake must be the devil, or something very like him—but because the snakes at the Zoo have their den-dens and kicking in the shape of the cheerful and guileless rabbit, which is voted cruel to the rabbit, however kind it may be to the snake; at all events, the spectacle is considered demoralising, and for this reason some people would like to see the snake-house abolished altogether. At any rate, any proposal publicly made for a new snake-house would probably be opposed, unless hand surplus funds could quickly be applied, and the whole thing done *sub rosa*.

The elephant that was brought to Europe by the Prince of Wales and presented by him to the Irish Zoological Gardens was a curious animal. He had a keeper who had taught

and subsequently from time to time "Bianca Capella," "Miriam Sedley, or the Tares and the Wheat," "The Peer's Daughters," "The World and his Wife," "Behind the Scenes," and "Very Successful"—all three-volume novels—besides some lighter publications. The latest of her works, published a few years ago, bore the title of "Shells from the Sands of Time;" but of its precise nature we have, unfortunately, no note. In later years we believe that the old rancour had been succeeded by calmer views of life and a more charitable attitude towards the male sex. Lady Lytton, who, as the peerages tell us, was the daughter of Francis Wheeler, Esq., was born about 1808. She was married, in 1827, to Lord Lytton, then Mr. Bulwer, by whom she had two children—namely, the present Lord Lytton and a daughter, who died in 1848.—*Daily News*.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.")

If all our winters are to be as mild as the last has been, the wedding gift of the Queen of the Netherlands to her sister will be rather a useless one. It is a sledge made of blue satin, and decorated on the outside with paintings of the various wars which we have next winter a season or two ago, such a vehicle will make a sensation among the rustics around Claremont.

No lady who has passed through the Divorce Court can, at the present time, appear at Court, however blameless her conduct may have been. I hear that recently the Queen has been disposed to relax the stringency of this regulation in special cases, where no fault of any kind has been attributed to the lady. The matter, however, was submitted to the Lord Chancellor and other officials, and their opinion was not in favour of this proposal, to which, perhaps, there are grave objections; although the unalterable rule on the subject has several times been very hardly on ladies of unexceptionable respectability.

I hear that there has been a dispute respecting the insignia of the Bath worn by the Dean of Westminster. Dean Stanley received his insignia from Dean Francis, and the Archbishop of Dublin, but he appears to have insisted his representatives to retain it, on the ground that, although a Dean who vacates the Deanery on preferment should leave the insignia to his successor, yet one who dies in office is entitled to keep it. Dean Stanley, therefore, applied for a new insignia, to which the Treasury objected as an unnecessary expense, and the matter does not appear to have been yet settled.

I am told that what are called "fees of honour" have been abolished, as far as possible; but the remuneration of some officials which are held by patent, such as Herald, and where the salaries are next to nothing—only some ten or twenty pounds a year—has always been made up of fees. These offices will necessarily be left alone till they are vacant, when other arrangements can be made—if, indeed, it is thought worth while to fill them up. Fees used to be enormous. An ordinary Knight Bachelor formerly paid about £130, and since the year 1830, when a Peer is created a Knight of any order whatever, he certainly ought to pay the fees and all "outfit" expenses himself.

From reading some of the silly and ignorant comments which appear whenever Lord and Lady Salisbury or Sir Stafford Northcote visit Windsor, one would suppose that they passed their time when at the Castle in talking politics with the Queen. As a matter of fact, they never see her Majesty except during dinner, and in the Grand Corridor for a short time before and after the meal. A visitor never has a private interview with the Queen unless at a formal audience, which is notified in the Court Circular.

A most zealous devotion to the worship of the Muse of Dancing, to the exclusion of the sister Muses, is the usual salient characteristic of Dublin society. Last week, however, the artistic element was in the ascendant, and society had the opportunity of recreating itself in those ways of pleasantness which are the ways of art and culture. The annual exhibition of the Royal Hibernian Academy was opened by Lord and Lady Cowper, who were attended by a large Viceregal party. The exhibition this year is of unusual merit, and it is a noteworthy fact, in these times, that one thousand pounds' worth of pictures were purchased on the opening day. The President, Sir T. Jones, exhibits a life-size portrait of the Prince of Wales, which he has just completed. Fidelity of likeness, however, in Royal portraits cannot be very accurately judged in Ireland, where the reigning family is so little known. It is more than ten years since the Prince of Wales last visited Ireland—during the viceregency of Lord Spencer—when he spent a week at the Viceregal Lodge. If the end of the Carnarvon season next week causes much dissatisfaction in society, especially as there is no Punctestown week to look forward to at Easter. Considering that the Viceregal is resident in Dublin for so many months of the year, it is difficult to distinguish any reasonable ground for complaining the viceregal hospitalities into a period of less than six weeks. Thrift is a good housewifely virtue, yet how many and unreasonable are the crimes committed in its name!

Just before her departure last week, the Empress of Austria presented Lord Carnarvon with a large gold snuff-box, beautifully chased and mounted with diamonds. I hear that, although the Empress has enjoyed excellent sport during her two visits to Cheshire, she still expresses a decided preference for Irish hunting, and lives in the hope that she may be able to visit Meath next year.

Another suite of apartments has fallen vacant at Hampton Court by the death of Lady Roberts. Many people would be glad if the suite were to be let to Lord Carnarvon, the late Governor of Madras. Mrs. Wyndham's suite has been given to Mrs. Danville, widow of Dr. Danville, the well-known Inspector-General, whose long and useful career was cut short by typhoid fever, which he caught while on duty at the Hospital. This mark of favour will give great satisfaction in the Navy, as Dr. Danville was highly esteemed and very popular in the service.

I suppose the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about Jumbo will come out at last, but, like all great truths—especially when they weigh six tons and cost £2,000—the Jumbo truth is many-sided. The real reason for selling Jumbo, it is now whispered, was not that he was dangerous, or likely soon to become so, or that a new house would have to be built, but that money was wanted to build a new—bush—snake-house. The notion was to run this up quickly out of Jumbo's purchase-money, without any other ado, or publicity, or bother, about funds. The fact is some people think a snake-house is wicked, not only because the Bible says the devil is a snake, and therefore a snake must be the devil, or something very like him—but because the snakes at the Zoo have their den-dens and kicking in the shape of the cheerful and guileless rabbit, which is voted cruel to the rabbit, however kind it may be to the snake; at all events, the spectacle is considered demoralising, and for this reason some people would like to see the snake-house abolished altogether. At any rate, any proposal publicly made for a new snake-house would probably be opposed, unless hand surplus funds could quickly be applied, and the whole thing done *sub rosa*.

The elephant that was brought to Europe by the Prince of Wales and presented by him to the Irish Zoological Gardens was a curious animal. He had a keeper who had taught

and subsequently from time to time "Bianca Capella," "Miriam Sedley, or the Tares and the Wheat," "The Peer's Daughters," "The World and his Wife," "Behind the Scenes," and "Very Successful"—all three-volume novels—besides some lighter publications. The latest of her works, published a few years ago, bore the title of "Shells from the Sands of Time;" but of its precise nature we have, unfortunately, no note. In later years we believe that the old rancour had been succeeded by calmer views of life and a more charitable attitude towards the male sex. Lady Lytton, who, as the peerages tell us, was the daughter of Francis Wheeler, Esq., was born about 1808. She was married, in 1827, to Lord Lytton, then Mr. Bulwer, by whom she had two children—namely, the present Lord Lytton and a daughter, who died in 1848.—*Daily News*.

LONDON GOSSIP.

(FROM "TRUTH.")

If all our winters are to be as mild as the last has been, the wedding gift of the Queen of the Netherlands to her sister will be rather a useless one. It is a sledge made of blue satin, and decorated on the outside with paintings of the various wars which we have next winter a season or two ago, such a vehicle will make a sensation among the rustics around Claremont.

plate on his door, with the words "Surgeon," surgeon," on it, but had taken it down at this inquiry commenced. He had no diploma as a surgeon or as a physician. He was born in Ireland about 15 years ago, and, he had made no study of medicine, and he had no degree from Cambridge. He did not represent to Mrs. Campbell that he was the staff of St. Thomas's Hospital; but he advised Mr. Campbell to go into the hospital and when Mrs. Campbell asked how it was managed, he said he was often down at St. Thomas's, and he thought he could help him. The Jury, after a short consultation returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against Synnott, and he was given into custody of the police by the Coroner. The crowded condition of the hospital, and the large number of medical students, who were accustomed passed along the room he was put with eggs and assaulted. An appeal was made to the Coroner for protection; but he said he could do nothing, and the only other remedy was to go to the police. At the moment at the basement of the building, instead of being in the Court.

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LONDON, MARCH 20—21, 1882.

THE THREATENED MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The resumption of the debate on Mr. Gladstone's first resolution touching the new rules of procedure was preceded on Monday by a Ministerial statement with regard to the course of public business in Parliament. Mr. Gladstone announced that it would be impossible to take the Budget before Easter. He suggested a doubt on this point some time ago, and a doubt in the House was easily transformed into a certainty. It will be unnecessary, therefore, to suspend the debate on procedure before the holidays, which are to begin on the 4th of April, the Tuesday in Passion Week. The public accounts are made up to the 31st of March, the end of the financial year, and this, according to the Prime Minister's calculation, compels the postponement of the Budget till after the recess. The time that remains, therefore, at the disposal of the Government during the next fortnight will be devoted to the consideration of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions, or rather to the first of them. It is scarcely to be expected that the House will get beyond, if indeed it be able to get through, the debate on the *cloture* proposals before Easter. If Lord Hartington's speech yesterday is to be taken as showing the spirit in which the Government desire to conduct this business, we cannot entertain any sanguine hope of rapid progress. Mr. Raikes resumed the debate with a pungent and vivacious criticism upon the discrepancies between the Prime Minister's resolution and his utterances when in Opposition. He examined the arguments in favour of the Ministerial scheme, with incidental and pointed reference, not only to Mr. Gladstone, but to Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Goschen, and Lord Hartington. Effective, however, as his speech undoubtedly was, it was open, in some degree, to Lord Hartington's remark—in the nature, it must be observed, of a *tu quoque*—that the late Chairman of Committees had abandoned the advantages of his disciplined impartiality and his practical experience and had interposed in debate as an ordinary partisan. Still, Mr. Raikes, if he is contented to make a party speech, made a very telling one, the effect of which may be measured by the degree in which it ruffled the usually serene temper of Lord Hartington. The heat thus contributed to the discussion soon subsided, and towards the end of the sitting some thoughtful and temperate speeches were delivered by Mr. Fowler, Mr. Bryce, Sir John Lubbock, and others. Sir Richard Cross replied in a closely reasoned argument to the Prime Minister, but though he referred to some of Lord Hartington's remarks he did not take up the gauge of party battle the latter had flung down. The menace of a Ministerial crisis is, no doubt, grave; but there are political interests which ought to be more precious to public-spirited men than the fate of a Cabinet or even the temporary fortunes of a party. We are convinced that if members of the House of Commons have the courage to follow their own reason and conscience they will find that the Ministry are not ready to throw up office merely because the *cloture* is to be weighed with conditions like those exacted under the rules of urgency last year. It is alleged that the rules of urgency were applied to a different state of things from that in which the *cloture* would be usually resorted to; but, as Mr. Raikes pointed out, the difference is on the side of making the latter less rigorous than the former. Lord Hartington's personal repugnance to the *cloture* by a majority including the main body of both parties appears to be rooted in the memories of his own experience as a leader of Opposition. He objects, indeed, to giving power divorced from responsibility to an Opposition by requiring their assent to closing debate; but this objection, if of any validity, would condemn the *cloture* informally exercised, as Mr. Gladstone lately reminded the House, by the consent of both parties. Sir John Lubbock warned his political associate that the time would come when their new weapon would be used against themselves, and it is important for every section of the Liberal party, for Radicals as well as Whigs, to consider what their attitude would be if they had to face a Conservative majority armed with the power of *cloture*. It is very well for Lord Hartington—perhaps with a too lively remembrance of the Army Bill debates and of Mr. Chamberlain's repudiation of his "late leader"—to declare that he would rather have no share of responsibility at all and would leave the majority, if they abused their strength, to be taught the lesson of experience. No doubt, there is a Nemesis which follows the abuse of authority, and it is well that powerful Ministries and large majorities should bear that truth in mind. But we do not submit to despotism or to anarchy because those evils engender their own remedies. An abuse of power, like an error in policy, may do irreparable mischief before it brings about a reaction. What would be thought of a proposal that no person except members of the Church of England should sit on juries, if it were defended as Lord Hartington and others defend the transfer of the power of closing debates from both parties, who, according to Mr. Gladstone, have heretofore "virtually possessed" it, to the dominant party alone? Would Protestant Dissenters and Roman Catholics be satisfied with an assurance that in the atmosphere of free discussion no wrong could be done? It is equally idle to ask Conservatives to trust implicitly to the reasonableness and justice of a Liberal majority, or Liberals to place similar confidence in a Conservative majority, when the question to be decided is whether the discussion of a particular subject has been exhausted or not. The only way in which the *cloture* can be made tolerable is to intrust it, as Sir John Lubbock has proposed, to a majority constituted so as to embrace under ordinary conditions the mass of both parties. But no such arrangement would satisfy the impatient spirits which look to accomplish a series of party triumphs by silencing opposition. Mr. Gladstone's description of the moderate and cautious manner in which the rule would be applied is demolished by Lord Hartington's anticipations of the practical achievements to be expected from its operation, even more than by Sir Richard Cross's forcible analysis of the change it would work in the life and structure of the House of Commons.—*Times*.

THE SALE OF POISONS.

Messrs. Allen and Hanbury have addressed to the *Times* a letter dealing with the existing regulations for the sale of poisons. They admit that a chemist when applied to for very potent poisons by unknown persons may be tempted to exercise discretion, as was done by an assistant to Messrs. Bell and Co. in the case of Lamson.—

But at the same time they apparently wish to convey the impression that this discretionary power is only to come into play in circumstances gloriously exceptional, for example, when a *non-distant* medical man makes repeated demands for dangerous poisons, and admits that they are for internal use. Now, we venture to say that the law, while requiring chemists to supply poisons to a medical man, does not exonerate them from the duty of taking all reasonable precautions to ascertain that the applicant is really what he professes to be. An ordinary customer is supplied with poison only when he is personally known to the chemist, or can bring a householder to certify to his identity. A medical man is dispensed from these formalities, but that renders it more rather than less incumbent on the chemist, to use due diligence to ascertain whether the applicant is really entitled to the exemption he claims. Personation of a medical man is not nearly so difficult or so rare as Messrs. Allen and Hanbury imagine. The technical method of writing an order on which they rely may be adopted by any intelligent person with very little trouble. The whole secret is to write dog-Latin instead of the Queen's English, and to write it as badly as possible, appending for more security some indecipherable hieroglyphic to do duty as initials. Besides this, there is another danger which Messrs. Allen and Hanbury altogether overlook. A personation of one medical man by another. Grant that the public cannot master this wonderfully protective technique, still there is nothing to hinder a man in Lamson's position from passing himself off under any name in the Medical Directory that strikes his fancy. The truth is that Messrs. Bell and Co.'s assistant complied at once with law and common sense when he suggested to Lamson that he had better get acquainted where he was possibly known. Medical men are not so easily deceived as they would be if the public must have the means of knowing in case of need who have actually got it. That is about all we can do in the way of protection; but so much ought to be done.—*Globe*.

FASHIONABLE NEWS.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), and attended by Colonel A. Ellis, visited the Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Queen's Road, Chelsea, on Monday afternoon. His Royal Highness afterwards went to visit Mr. Agnew's picture gallery in Bond-street.

Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by Lady Emily Kingscote and Mr. A. Ellis, dined with the Duke of Cambridge at Gloucester House on Monday evening. Upon the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh at Harfordwest on Monday morning, rain was falling, but it abated about eleven, and was succeeded by fine weather. George IV. passed through the town in 1821, and since then, until the present occasion, no Royal visitor has been to Harfordwest. The Duke and Duchess were received at the railway station by the Lord Lieutenant of the county, Mr. G. E. C. Phillips (lord lieutenant of the town and county of Harfordwest), and the mayor, Mr. W. F. Ormond. At Castle-square the mayor, accompanied by the corporation, presented an address of welcome and congratulation, which the Duke briefly acknowledged amid loud cheers. The Royal party were escorted to the town boundaries by the D troop of Castle-martin Yeomanry Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Sandria, the militia and volunteers acting as a guard of honour. At St. David's, which was extensively decorated, their Royal Highnesses were received by Dean Allen and other officials, and an address was again presented. The object of the Royal visit here was understood to be a desire to explore the antiquarian remains of the Duke and Duchess returned to Neyland in the evening.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught arrived in town from Windsor on Monday, and were received by the Lord Mayor, Mr. Alfred Cooper, in attendance.

The Duke of Cambridge had a dinner party at Gloucester House on Monday evening. The guests included the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Prince Adolphus, the Hereditary Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, died with his Royal Highness.

The Lord President of the Council, Earl Spencer, is expected to leave for London this week in order to attend her Majesty as Secretary of State.

THE CONVICT LAMSON.

Since Saturday the friends of Lamson have received by letter and telegraph important testimony respecting his alleged unsoundness of mind. Among the telegrams received on Monday is one from a prominent gentleman in New York, Mr. J. B. Allen, who forwards to the prisoner's solicitor duly-authenticated documents proving that Lamson's aunt, grandmother, grand-uncle, and other relatives died in Bloomingdale Lunatic Asylum, State of New York. Before the memorial sent to the Home Office it has been decided to attach to it a tabulated statement showing the quantities of morphia purchased by the prisoner during the past twelve months, and the occasions on which it was bought. As the drug was bought for Lamson's own use, it is thought that by this means the friends will be able to show that he was a victim to that drug. The prisoner preserves upon the whole a very calm demeanour, and seems to think a good deal more of his friends and relations than he does of the doom to which he has been sentenced. His father has had an interview with him, and remained some time in the condemned cell, but the culprit made no allusion whatever to the crime for which he has been condemned, and seemed to be perfectly fazed and almost without knowledge as to what had been transpiring during the past few months. In health he has much improved, but at night he is restless and disturbed. During Monday Lamson was occupied in good part in writing letters, chiefly of a purely business character, and in pursuing without any apparent depth of thought, the various devotional works which had been placed at his hand by the Rev. Mr. Gilbert, the chaplain of the prison. His wife visited him during the day. Numerous letters have been received from members of the medical profession, expressing a wish to sign a memorial on the prisoner's behalf, under the belief that, even if he administered the drug, he did not know what he was doing. But his friends attach more importance to a long list. Mr. Mills, who has acted for the condemned man as his solicitor throughout, visited Lamson on Sunday evening at Wandsworth. He found him quite calm and business-like, but every now and again he appeared to drift into a different region, to lose the point on which they were conversing, and to start a new subject altogether. The memorial to the Home Secretary has been drafted, but has not yet been finally arranged.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

LORD GRANVILLE announced, in reply to Lord Redesdale, that he intended to propose that their Lordships should adjourn for the Easter Recess from the 31st inst. until the 20th April.

LORD DELAWARE moved the second reading of the Railways (Continuous Brakes) Bill, the object of which was to secure that the passenger train should be provided with a brake which was continuous, self-acting and capable of being applied both by engine-driver and guard; instantaneous in case of accident, and capable of being released when required. The measure also provided that Railway Companies should be responsible for vehicles which did not belong to them, if running on their lines, and empowered the Board of Trade to inspect rolling stock.

LORD ALBANY moved the second reading of the Bill for the purpose of amending the legislation on so important a question ought to be undertaken only on the responsibility of the Government. Lord Aberdeen gave a qualified support to the Bill, and eventually it was read a second time, on the understanding that the Government would be held responsible for the Bill. Lord Bury having asked whether it was true that the Military Committee sitting on the subject of the Bill were prohibited, by the terms of reference, from inquiring whether the construction of the tunnel was or was not advisable from a strategic point of view, Lord Morley once more explained that the Committee was of a purely scientific nature, and that the questions referred for its consideration were the practicability of closing the tunnel against an enemy, and the means to be employed for that purpose.

LORD SALISBURY, remarking that the question was one that excited a good deal of feeling, said it would be impossible to bring the Bill to a final decision was arrived at, to which Lord Granville replied that it was certainly not intended to preclude Parliament from the consideration of this important subject.

Some further consideration, the subject dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The Speaker took the chair shortly before four o'clock.

More than 50 questions were addressed to various members of the Government, but the great majority had no general interest.

In answer to Lord G. Hamilton, Mr. Gladstone said it would be impossible to bring in the Budget before Easter; and subsequently, in answer to Sir S. Northcote, he said that the Easter Recess would be from a Morning Sitting on Tuesday, April 4, to the Monday week following.

Mr. GLADSTONE gave notice that after the first of the New Rules of Procedure had been agreed to, he would move that the first seven and the last three be made standing orders. The two intervening resolutions he mentioned were amendments to existing standing orders.

THE CLOTURE.

The Adjourned Debate on the *cloture* was resumed by

MR. RAIKES, who, in an effective speech, examined in succession the various arguments for and against the *cloture*. He pointed out that it did not exist in the Legislatures of Hungary, Sweden and Spain—countries in which Parliamentary institutions as distinguished from mere legislative chambers were of ancient growth, and in which there had always been a tradition of freedom—and in the important Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and Canada, the *cloture* was not in use; and he remarked that the proposal for its introduction was a piece of ancient history, and in which the prolongation of debate, from which he read several striking extracts. As to the Constitutional precedents, he pointed out that they were taken from the proceedings in the judgment of Lord Stowell, and he disapproved of the precedent of the *cloture* in the House of Commons, and he pointed out that it was only applied to a measure declared by a Minister of the Crown to be important, and that it required a majority of three to one. Dealing with the proposal for its introduction, he pointed out that it was a piece of ancient history, and in which the prolongation of debate, from which he read several striking extracts. As to the Constitutional precedents, he pointed out that they were taken from the proceedings in the judgment of Lord Stowell, and he disapproved of the precedent of the *cloture* in the House of Commons, and he pointed out that it was only applied to a measure declared by a Minister of the Crown to be important, and that it required a majority of three to one. Dealing with the proposal for its introduction, he pointed out that it was a piece of ancient history, and in which the prolongation of debate, from which he read several striking extracts. As to the Constitutional precedents, he pointed out that they were taken from the proceedings in the judgment of Lord Stowell, and he disapproved of the precedent of the *cloture* in the House of Commons, and he pointed out that it was only applied to a measure declared by a Minister of the Crown to be important, and that it required a majority of three to one.

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proof lay on those who sought to depart from the usual rule; but large minorities, in the nature of things, would require no such protection, while for small minorities the initiative of the Speaker was ample protection. But who, he asked, was to be responsible in any particular case for the consequences which might flow from the refusal to accede to a proposal, and speaking with some knowledge of the position of leader of the Opposition, he declared that he should be extremely reluctant to take such a responsibility on himself. What, he asked, did the Opposition propose to substitute for the proposal to remedy the evil; and, dealing with the objection that they had not been consulted, he said that 20 committees having reported on the subject without any result, the Government felt that they alone had the requisite initiatory force and that they ought to press forward the changes which they thought necessary with all the authority which they would employ in other matters. Primarily, the dignity and efficiency of the House were concerned, but the Government had also an interest, because they believed that they could not conduct the business of the House under the existing rules. If others thought that they could do it the Government would cheerfully resign their functions; but, as long as they continued to be responsible, and for the conduct of affairs, they must appeal to the House to give them the powers they thought necessary.

BARON DE WORMS contended that, after Lord Hartington's speech, it was clear that the ancient body of speech was to be extinguished solely for party purposes. If such a power was to be established, it should be by such a majority as would guard against any possibility of abuse, and he showed that the ancient body of speech was to be extinguished solely for party purposes. If such a power was to be established, it should be by such a majority as would guard against any possibility of abuse, and he showed that the ancient body of speech was to be extinguished solely for party purposes.

MR. BORSALINO and Colonel CANNISTON supported the resolution, while Mr. DAWKINS spoke against it. Sir J. KILGUS claimed for the Conservative interest as deep as their political opponents in the dignity and efficiency of the House, and while admitting the necessity for amending the rules and the sound judgment displayed in some of the later resolutions, was unable to see any remedial value in the *cloture*. It was a revolution, not a reform, of procedure; it would stifle all legitimate and fair discussion, and would degrade the position of Speaker.

MR. SHIELD supported the resolution, in which he saw no danger, and attributed the opposition solely to a dislike to certain legislation.

MR. WATSON described the Ministerial proposal as a Turkish alternative—"the bow-string or the sack."

MR. H. F. FROX thought that the question which the House had to decide was whether every member should have a right to prolong the debate indefinitely and to stop business. The *cloture*, he pointed out, already existed by arrangement, and, as an instance, he mentioned the debate of last Session, and though he opposed as strongly as ever the proposal to give a majority, however large, the power of closing the debate, he regarded the judicial initiative given to the Speaker as ample protection to minorities.

MR. BORSALINO, in addressing Sir James Ingham, said that he thought it was unnecessary to call special attention to the matter, as he (the magistrate) had had under his consideration a short time ago, when an information was laid against Lord Huntly upon certain allegations with reference to the representations that were said to be made.

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About 10 o'clock on Monday night as Mr. Doherty, of Tubercerry, and a Miss Conry, of Sligo, were returning in a car from Mr. Armstrong's, of Chaffpools, they were met on the road by a disguised armed party, who fired at them, dangerously wounding Mr. Doherty in the knee. Miss Conry was also wounded, and was taken to the hospital. The attempt was evidently deliberately planned. Mr. Doherty, it appears, was in command of the constabulary when, about three months ago, Mr. Sheridan, of Tubercerry, was released from confinement as a suspect. Mr. Sheridan had been a traverser in the State Trials of January, 1881, and he had also been for a considerable time both before and after the trials one of the "organisers" of the Land League. On his release, there was considerable rejoicing in Tubercerry, where he carried on business as a grocer and spirit dealer. Bonfires were lighted and a crowd assembled, and Mr. Doherty, finding it difficult to disperse the people otherwise, ordered the police to fire over their heads. The result was that he was severely wounded. Miss Conry is a young lady of popular sense. Miss Conry is a young lady of popular sense. Miss Conry is a young lady of popular sense.

Another outrage of a serious character is reported from the notorious district of Clontarf, near county Galway, on the shores of Lough Mask. It appears that on the evening of St. Patrick's Day a woman named Gibbons was returning from a pattern in company with her son. They were returning home about dusk, and were about three-quarters of a mile from Clontarf when they were waylaid and beaten by three men, who lay in concealment on a bye road, adjoining the main road. The young man died on Saturday. Three men, named Pat Connolly, Pat Conner, and Edward Conner, were arrested, and, having been brought before the magistrates, were remanded for a week.

MR. GEORGE CRAWFORD, of Stirrupstown, near Clontarf, was driving to church with his family on Sunday morning, he was fired at and seriously wounded. Some members of his family also received injuries. Mr. Crawford had been under police protection, but does not appear to have been so on this occasion. No arrests have up to the present been made. Other particulars show that the shots were fired from behind a hedge, and the horse Mr. Crawford was driving was also struck. Mr. Crawford lies in a critical condition. He is a rate-collector and agent, and lost an eye some years ago by a similar outrage.

THE CHARGES AGAINST LORD HUNTLY.

Lord Huntly, accompanied by Inspector Seargent of the Criminal Investigation Department, Scotland-yard, attended at the Police Court on Tuesday, his lordship having surrendered himself at Scotland-yard the same morning. He was described on the charge-sheet as Charles Gordon, Marquis of Huntly, aged 45 years, and was charged with obtaining the sum of £2,000 from Mr. Gardiner by means of false pretences. Seargent Ballantine, who appeared for the defence, asked that the case might be taken as soon as possible for the convenience of those present. The judge arranged to take it immediately after the night charges had been disposed of. Mr. Frederick Kent, solicitor, appeared to prosecute. It was afterwards arranged that the case should be taken in the second court, before Sir James Ingham.

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friends were arranging them. He had no knowledge of any proceedings being taken against him, neither had he any reason to believe that any were in contemplation. He was travelling in the East, and when he heard that proceedings had been taken he returned as soon as possible to England, and was perfectly willing and ready to meet any charge that might be made against him by either prosecutor in this matter. The case was then adjourned by consent of all parties to the 14th of April, the defendant being admitted to bail, in two sureties in £5,000 each on the first summons, and two sureties in £2,500 on the second. The parties left the court. Lord Londsdale and Colonel Owen Williams were the sureties.

REG. V. CONEY AND OTHERS.
The following note, says the *St. James's Gazette*, was picked up in court after the termination of the Berkshire prize-fighting case. It bears signs of being very accurately taken, though it differs in details from those already published:—

A and B fought for an hour in a ring, surrounded by a great crowd. C and D looked on from the midst of the crowd; and were thereupon indicted for aiding and abetting a prize-fight. Convicted; but conviction quashed after argument. The following were among the judgments delivered:—

Save, J.—A and B are guilty of mutual assault. It has been argued that they were not so, because A consented to B's striking him in consideration that he was allowed to hit B, if he could. The consideration is bad in law. Moreover, by so consenting, A assaulted himself, when by his own leave B punched him in the eye; and likewise of B, when A gave him one on the nose by permission. Therefore, A and B mutually struck themselves with the fists of each other; assaulting him, and not to his assaulting himself, as is proved by the respective attempts to parry and ward off the blows. So there is a breach of the peace by A and B. But I don't think C and D were guilty; for they did not look on, and one may see much without approving of it.

Lake, J.—Yes; and hear much too—my brother's judgment, for example. A and B did an unlawful act; that is conceded. C and D saw them do it and did not attempt to stop them; therefore they are guilty of the crime committed by A and B. For example, if I, walking from the Athenaeum to this court, see a man about to jump off the Duke of York's column, and stand and regard him till he does it, I am in that case, if he is killed, guilty of suicide.

Other judgments followed—some one way, some another; but mostly the other.

Southey, C. J.—It is conceded that A and B committed an offence, and that C and D stopped to see them do it. The case would have been different had they seen them to stop; perhaps; but that is not this case. I don't think it was necessary to refer—as my brother Sebastian did—to the case where a man was killed in a tourney. I dare say it is quite true; but it need not have been quoted, for we were already aware of my learned brother's erudition. Nor will I deal with the cases, so facetiously supposed by my brother Wagon, of surrounding trees being indicted for "standing by." It is termed; or of policemen charged with "interfering in the fight" because they interfered by "collaring" the pugilists. I am content to decide this case philosophically. We agree that A is guilty of assaulting A, and B of assaulting B, by the respective blows; and my brother Save has explained so well. C and D, who witnessed these assaults, did as much as A and B respectively; for A, in contemplation of law, saw B assault B, and B saw A assault A, and A and B serve themselves thus. Therefore, they should stand, therefore; for let us remember.

They also serve who only stand and wait.

ENGLISH GRANTS TO AMEERS OF AFGHANISTAN.—A Parliamentary return just issued shows the grants made by the Government, etc., given by the Indian Government to different Amiers of Afghanistan since the time of Dost Mohammed (inclusive). Gifts of money and arms were made to Dost Mohammed in 1856 and 1857, to Sher Ali in 1858, 1870, 1871, 1872, to Yakub in 1879, and to Abdur Rahman in 1881. Money gifts roughly estimating the lakh of rupees at £90,000 were as follows:—To Dost Mohammed—in 1856, £50,000; subsidy of £120,000 a year from 1st January, 1857, to 30th September, 1860, amounting to £210,000. To Sher Ali—in 1860, £120,000; in 1872, £200,000; in 1873, £100,000, half of which sum was to be considered as a contribution towards the amount paid to the Afghans by the British Government. To Yakub—in 1879, £250,000, in small and large sums, as road expenses from Gudsak to Cabul. To Abdur Rahman Khan—in 1881, £396,500 (including £96,500 found in the Treasury at Cabul in 1879; subsidy of £3,000 for four months (April to July) to Amier's Government; £200,000 for current administrative expenses, or £20,000 per annum).

MONEY-LENDERS AND THEIR VICTIMS.—At the Lambeth Police-court on Monday a respectable-looking woman came before Mr. Chance to ask his advice with regard to a transaction she had had with a loan office. She stated that she was a widow, and was possessed of a number of horses, cabs, and other property. Being in want of £50 for her own use, she looked into the newspapers, and she saw in one of the following advertisements:—

IMPORTANT TO BORROWERS.—A private gentleman desirous of advancing money from £10 to £1,000 in town or country upon a respectable long or short period, without surties, fees, publicity, or loan office formalities. State security, Mr. H. Harrison, York-road, Lambeth. N.B.—Mr. Harrison, who is a member of the spare capital, and wishing to ensure the loan to persons residing in the country, responsible applicants will have the money advanced the day after application. No genuine proposal refused.

She obtained the loan, but found afterwards she had been charged £20 interest. Mr. Chance said money-lenders were a bad set of people, and he wished to hear more from the applicants to the transaction. Applicant said, after writing to the office in question, she was visited by a clerk, who gave her a long list of questions, which she answered to the best of her power. In one of them she found the terms were 3 per cent. interest on good security, and then 10s. was to be forwarded for expenses. She afterwards went to the office, and after being kept waiting for a long time, was informed that Mr. Harrison, if he granted the loan, required it repaid by monthly instalments of £5 for twelve months. She said that would be £60, 20 per cent. interest. Mr. Chance asked if she had lodged any securities. The applicant replied that she had deposited security on 22 horses, several cabs, furniture, and a life policy. After some more waiting, she was ushered into a room and introduced to a person, said to be a solicitor, who said all that she had to do was to be careful and keep up her payments. He then put down a paper for her to sign, and after having done so, he handed her the money. As she was leaving, he gave her an envelope, and said she would find a paper inside with regard to her payments. Upon reaching home she opened the envelope, and then, to her amazement, discovered a paper informing her that she had effected a mortgage on her property for £70. She went back immediately, but was unable to obtain any redress. Mr. Chance said it appeared to be a most shameful transaction, and directed the clerk to inform the parties that, unless a satisfactory explanation was given, he should direct a warrant to issue for a conspiracy against them. He considered it was nothing more than a gross attempt at fraud.

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PRICE 40 CENTS

LONDON, MARCH 22—23, 1882.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE
COERCION ACT.

LADIES AND THEIR DRESS.

ncy, any more than other less sensible attempts to change the fashionable man-

THE EMPEROR WILLIAM

PARLIAMENTARY SUMMARY

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

FASHIONABLE NEWS

LONDON GOSSIP.

THE CAMBRIDGE CLASSICAL TRIPOS.

Examined and approved in order of merit:

CLASS II.

CLASS III

* * * In all cases of equality the names are

Mr. John Reynolds Wardale, of Clare, is son of the Rev. J. Wardale, of Datchworth Rectory, Herts, and formerly fellow of Clare

JUMBO AT THE DOCKS

placed. The result of this was that it had to be dug out and jacked up, and a start was not made until five minutes past one. A tremendous rush was made by the

Colin's Digest

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Great Britain.

LONDON, MARCH 23-24, 1882.

PRINCE LEOPOLD AND THE COMMONS.

The opposition to the Resolution moved by Mr. Gladstone was manifestly unjust. A grant similar to that proposed on Thursday night has been made to each of the Royal Princes on their marriage. Why should an exception be made in the case of Prince Leopold? If the first grant of this nature had been successfully opposed, there would have been nothing unfair or unreasonable in contesting those that followed. But the principle having been once admitted, it is ungenerous to seek to make invidious distinctions between the several members of the Royal family. Whether the existing arrangement between Parliament and the Crown is the best that could be made is a question legitimately open to discussion. It is unseemly, however, to have these petty wranglings on the part of a small section of the Lower House whenever an application, submitted in accordance with precedent, is submitted by the Prime Minister. The proposal brought forward on Thursday night is founded on what Mr. Gladstone called, with perfect propriety, "an honourable understanding;" an understanding from which it is perfectly impossible that the House of Commons can depart in her Majesty's lifetime. In considering these matters it should also be borne in mind that the services performed by the Queen herself are only a part of the services performed by the whole Royal family. They all co-operate not only in keeping the Monarchical system in existence, but in making it respected by the people. The young Princes have great social duties to discharge. If we value our present form of Government we must value all that tends to its stability and popularity. A numerous Royal family setting an example of domestic virtue, which are so justly precious in the sight of all Englishmen does conduce to this stability and popularity. Her Majesty's own life and the character she has impressed upon her Court have been of inestimable value to the people of the realm. That this character should be perpetuated, it is necessary that the Princes should be enabled to marry in their youth, and avoid those scandals with which we are only too familiar in the annals of a bygone generation. The moral influence upon a nation of an example of domestic purity in high places cannot be overestimated, and the more numerous the Royal Family the more widely, of course, does the example affect society. It is impossible to exaggerate the beneficial influence which her Majesty's reign has exercised. That much, indeed, is universally admitted. The Queen has fulfilled her part of the contract with the approval of her subjects, and in a manner commanding the admiration of the world. How could the nation refuse to perform a generous and ungrudging spirit their own part of it? We are more desirous of writing an Epithalamium than the member for Northampton; but we are prepared to say that, considering the high ideal of personal worth represented by the Queen, the lives of her sons and daughters, and the inestimable social benefit which the nation derives from their example, the pounds, shillings, and pence argument of Mr. Labouchere and his friends was as ungracious as it was impolitic. He was stimulated to the attack by those who, under other circumstances, had shared his views; nor do we envy the feelings of several of the Ministers as they listened to the Debate on Thursday night. But we do not for a moment believe that in this respect Mr. Storey and Mr. Broadhurst represent any considerable section of the English people, who, we are convinced, will cordially endorse the action which the House of Commons has taken.—*Standard.*

THE SITUATION IN EGYPT.

The state of Egypt is once more causing disquiet. The Army, which has dismissed Ministries, raised Arabi Bey to office, augmented its pay, seems to be still dissatisfied, and is believed to be resolved upon getting all power into the hands of its leaders. Meanwhile, the Khedive is helpless in the face of the crisis, and the conviction is rapidly spreading that he has failed so utterly as a ruler that the sooner he is got rid of the better. Of course, every pretender to the viceregal throne is straining his utmost in the assertion of his claims, and particularly the Khedive is active. There can be little doubt that Ismail's money has contributed much to bring about anarchy in Egypt, and he is bribing and promising in all directions, and acquiring a party to support his pretensions. It would be affectation to pretend ignorance of the intrigue that is on foot to restore him to his throne. A strange report is circulating that one of the Powers is in favour of his restoration. The report, however, is scarcely credible. Ismail's opposition to the Fellahs, his rapacity, faithlessness, and inveterate propensity to gamble, compelled England and France to insist upon his deposition at the risk of reviving Turkish authority in Egypt; and it is impossible that he can now consent

to give back the Fellahs to the lash, and renew all the abuses from which Egypt is just recovering. [The Report of the Comptroller-General which has been received this week strikingly brings before us the great progress made by Egypt since Ismail's deposition. The Fellahs have for the first time become conscious that they have rights which the courts of law will enforce, and which even the officials are bound to recognize. They are beginning to assume a personal independence they never knew before. The finances are flourishing. The taxes are paid regularly, and there has been a large surplus at the end of each of the past three years available for the construction of public works. Were the existing system preserved, there is every prospect that an early abolition of forced labour would become possible, and that therefore the system which prevails everywhere in Europe would be introduced in Egypt; that is to say, that all the public works necessary would be paid for, and that the Fellahs would be able to devote all their labour to their own concerns. To restore Ismail would be to undo all the good that has been achieved since his deposition. In a country like Egypt, which has been under the heel of foreign oppressors for so many centuries, the beginnings of national life are only too likely to be found in the army. It is not natural to expect that a people so long used to see all their rights trampled under foot should suddenly assert themselves. If a national feeling is awakening, it is amongst the soldiery that we should expect to find its first expression; and therefore it would be unfortunate if too early an intervention were to crush a movement which, ugly as it is in many respects, may yet bear within it the germs of popular development. The true policy both for England and France is to wait patiently and vigilantly to watch the progress of events in Egypt; neither to interfere themselves nor to permit the intervention of others as long as order is maintained and the international engagements of the country are fulfilled, and to encourage the people in taking part in the administration of their own affairs, if they really wish to do so. A little time will show whether the army is merely taking its orders from Constantinople or from the Khedive, as so many people suppose. If it is not obeying an external impulse, we see no reason for foreign intervention. It would be different, of course, if the lives and properties of foreigners were endangered, or if the safety of the Suez Canal were imperilled. But neither foreigners nor the Canal have anything to fear. Nor should too great a desire to push forward reforms and to benefit the Fellahs hurry us into a forcible intervention. It is more important for a country that its people should learn how to manage their own affairs than that public works should be executed a little earlier than they otherwise would be. Egypt will have cheaply purchased self-government by the postponement of its public works if the present movement should be the beginning of national life. Above all things it seems to us that Turkish intervention is most to be avoided. It will certainly be as difficult, to say the least, to get Turkish troops out of Egypt, if once they get there, as it now is to deal with Arabi Bey and his followers. The Turks will be very untrue to themselves, if, having landed in Egypt, they do not appropriate the money in the Treasury, and do not establish an authority there which it is not desirable either for Egypt or for Europe that they should exercise.—*Daily News.*

"THE WORST-LIGHTED CITY IN THE WORLD."

Taking into account its enormous wealth, London, it must be admitted, is about the worst-lighted city in the world. The fact is one upon which all visitors to London very freely dissent, and which cannot be defended, much less denied. This accusation applies only to the public lighting of London streets after nightfall, for in thoroughfares where shops remain open till a late hour the public reap the benefit of brilliant private illumination. And much as has been said, and continues to be said, in condemnation of public-house lighting, we take it that even Sir Wilfrid Lawson, that arch-enemy of temperance, would be compelled to admit that their proprietors supply a very serious want during the hours they are allowed by Act of Parliament to keep their establishments open. Let any one whose business or pleasure keeps him from home until the small hours of the morning, and the appearance of, say Fleet-street, and the Strand, before midnight and after. Up to 12 o'clock, in these and like thoroughfares, the pedestrian has his path pointed out to him, not by the dim religious light of the public lamps, but by the glare of the illuminations of the public-houses. In those West-end regions where private palaces rear their stately stuccoed fronts and gables narrow with a late hour of the evening, the pedestrian gropes his way in constant fear of grottoes or open gratings. Only a few days ago a poor woman was driven over and killed in that fashionable locality, South Kensington, and the poor man who was charged with the horse and cart pleaded in defence that the accident was caused by the insufficient lighting of the street, which prevented him seeing the unfortunate victim, and the plea was admitted. Surely, it is dangerous that such a state of things should be allowed to exist in the heart of the empire. No doubt the introduction of electric lighting into some of our streets is putting those who prefer gas as a consuming power upon their metal; but, in reality, it is only for the greater part of those vicinities where the electric light is in use that the consumption of gas is increased. "More light" has long been the cry of the Londoner, not only as a means of convenience, but also as an instrument of protection. It is all very well from the romantic point of view, to sing with the poet, that there is "no lamp so cheering as that light which heaven sheds;" but when Moore sang he was dreaming of the open country, not realising the fogs and the rampant rowdiness of the streets of London.—*Evening Standard.*

THE COST OF AN UNOPOSED ELECTION.—The return of the expenses incurred by Lord Alington for his unopposed election for Westminster has been issued. It shows that the cost was but little short of £2,000, the total amounting to £1,991 15s. 11d. The agent's expenses are returned at £100 guineas, while central and district agents cost £536 11s. The expenses of the central office, including rent, furniture, salaries of clerks, canvassers, messengers, etc., were £398 9s. 4d., and those for the thirteen district offices, £100 10s. 6d. Printing expenses amounted to £148 7s. 6d., and those for advertising to £117 2s. The hire of rooms for public meetings and incidental expenses are put down at £263 8s., and stationery, postage stamps, telegrams, registers, and the other incidental expenses at £237 7s. 10d.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock. THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE. Lord GRANVILLE, in graceful terms, proposed a humble address thanking the Queen for her message on the subject of the approaching marriage of Prince Leopold, and assuring her Majesty that the House would concur in making a suitable provision for her Royal Highness.

LORD STURTEVANT, in seconding the motion, observed that the House would only be discharging its duty in carrying out the assurance contained in the address. The motion was agreed to *unanimously*. LORD REDESDALE, in moving his Parliamentary Declaration Bill, stated that his object was to exclude atheists from Parliament, and he thought that an atheist would have too much to fear from the position he would occupy in the sight of men to affirm solemnly, in the words of the bill, that he believed in Almighty God.

LORD STURTEVANT, in moving an amendment to the previous question, observed that the declaration provided in the bill related to what was so solemn and so true that it would not be pleasant to his feelings to meet the motion with a direct negative, but even in matters of solemnity it was necessary to have regard to time and circumstances, and he believed the effect of sending this bill down to the other House would be the loss of a recognition of the existence of God in cases in which we now had it. More-over, he held that the words in the bill were so indefinite that they would not be a declaration of belief in the God whom Christians and Jews acknowledged. He believed that atheists would be found ready to take the declaration in the broadest sense, and that the professed readiness to take an oath which concluded with the words "So help me God." What he had as effective as anything we could get in the generation in which we lived, and it would be dangerous to look for more.

The Duke of ARGYLL would vote for the amendment as it stood, but he would have voted with more pleasure for an amendment to negative the Bill in the usual form. If he were a member of the House of Commons, he would have voted against allowing Mr. Bradlaugh to take the oath, and he was astonished that any one was found to assert that the House of Commons had acted illegally in not permitting a man to take an oath who over and over again declared that he was a Christian in his conscience. At the same time, he held that the Parliamentary oath was no security against the entry of an atheist to Parliament. No religious test could be effective. The only test was that we were driven to allow each person to make that declaration which he felt to be binding on his conscience.

The Bishop of LONDON, being of opinion that the Bill would be an ineffectual one, could not but arise in the House of Commons, and he expressed his regret that one in the high political position of Lord Salisbury should have stimulated that prejudice against the Government.

LORD STURTEVANT did not desire to extend the limits of this debate by discussing on this occasion the action of the Government in respect of Mr. Bradlaugh. The difficulty which the Bill before them was proposed to meet had arisen in the House of Commons, and he suggested that the remedy also should originate in that House; but he concurred with those who thought that the declaration proposed in the Bill was too vague to be of any real value. He felt confident that, after the expression of opinion heard that evening, his noble friend would not put them to the trouble of dividing.

LORD REDESDALE then announced that he would not divide the House.

The amendment was then agreed to, and the Bill accordingly fell to the ground.

Their Lordships adjourned at ten minutes past 7.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

PRINCE LEOPOLD'S MARRIAGE.

In Committee of the whole House, after the Royal Message relating to the Duke of Albany's marriage had been read by the Clerk, Mr. GEORGE MORLEY moved that the House should grant to his Royal Highness of £10,000 a year in addition to his present income of £15,000, and the other fixing the allowance to the Princess Helen under widowhood at £5,000 a year. Her Majesty said, in the most fortunate and friendly feeling which had hitherto regulated the relations of parties and the conduct of business; and the Government would be wise if it made some concession to secure the peace of mind of the young couple. Nothing had occurred to justify a proposal to take away liberty of speech from the many to restrain the licence of a few. The irritation produced by such unnecessary restrictions might lead to "filibustering," "stone-walling," and other excesses of obstruction, which would discredit the House more than anything which had occurred yet. Pointing out how the rule might be used to oppress unpopular members, and unpopular causes, he warned the House that the difficulties of Ireland might be considerably increased. On the whole, he concluded, from their unnecessary pertinacity, that the Government had something in their minds which they had not found it convenient to reveal.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT, examining the amendment actually before the House, pronounced it to be a simple negation, which, if carried, would be a refusal to adopt any measure, bringing a debate to a close, and he proceeded to a sufficient length. Arguing the question on this basis, he went in minute detail into the business of the Session, showing how, under the present system—which the House, by the motion before it, was asked to alter—it would not only be a reckless and unpatriotic minority might stop supplies and prevent any business at all being done. The safeguard against a misuse of the power of the majority was the certain retribution with which public opinion would visit them, without such a change of procedure he argued that a sort of *liberum veto* would be conferred on an irresponsible minority, the result of which would be that nothing whatever would be done. After some sarcastic comments on the combination between the Conservatives and the Parnellites, he warned the Conservatives that, if they succeeded in turning out the Government, their allies of to-day would become their masters of to-morrow; but he predicted with confidence that the result of the division would be to vindicate the ancient fame of the House of Commons.

On the motion of Sir H. Giffard, the debate was adjourned.

The other Orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at eight minutes past 2 o'clock.

FASHIONABLE NEWS.

The Earl and Countess of Selton's party at Croxteth for the Liverpool race meeting comprised the Earl and Countess Howe, the Earl of Hardwicke, Viscount and Viscountess Castlereagh, Viscount and Viscountess Lascelles, Lord de Lila, Lord Norreys, Lord Marcus Beresford, Colonel Hon. Henry Forster, Sir George Chetwynd, Colonel Reilly, and Mr. Housingshield, of the Austrian Embassy.

Lord and Lady Thurlow entertained at dinner on Wednesday evening, at their residence in Chesham-place, the Earl of Seafield, the Earl and Countess of Elgin, Viscount and Viscountess Enfield, Lord and Lady

Tenterden, Lord and Lady Sudley, Sir Kenneth and Lady Mackenzie, Sir George and Lady Macpherson Grant, Miss Ralli, Hon. Bruce, M.P., Mr. Spring Rice, and Mr. Baillie.

Lord Erskine is seriously ill at his residence, Ellenheim, Torquay. His lordship, who is in his 78th year, has been in declining health for some time past, and very faint hopes are entertained of his recovery. Sir Daniel Cooper gave a dinner party on Thursday evening at his residence, De Vere-gardens, Kensington Palace, when the following gentlemen assembled to meet Sir Henry Parkes, the Premier of New South Wales:—The Duke of Manchester, the Marquis of Tweeddale, the Earl of Kimberley, General Sir Archibald Alison, Bart., General Sir John Lubbock, Bart., Sir George Bowen, Sir Alexander Galt, Sir P. Cunliffe Owen, Sir Julian Pauncefote, Sir Donald Currie, Messrs. R. G. H. Herbert, Donald Larnach, Saul Samuel, Arthur Hodgson, J. Chenevix Trench, G. S. Anderson, J. G. S. Anderson, John Pender, Henry Bailey, John Makrell, and Frederick Green.

The death is announced of Lady Louisa Spencer, widow of the late Hon. C. R. Spencer, Colonel Royal Artillery, and sister to the present Duke of Marlborough, which took place on Thursday at the residence of her son-in-law, Captain Fane, at Retford Notts, from scarlet fever.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

We believe that the principal object of Mr. Forster's visit to Ireland is to consult the members of the Prison Board and other officials as to the relaxation of the conditions under which the suspects are confined. It will be recollected that recently Mr. Forster proposed that the period of solitary confinement should be reduced from eighteen to sixteen hours.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

When in the House of Commons on Thursday night the Clerk at the Table read the Queen's Message on which Mr. Gladstone's motion for a vote for Prince Leopold was based, hon. members in various parts of the House, bearing in mind the lesson of Monday, hastily uncovered. Some conversation was apparently created on the Conservative benches by the discovery that five of her Majesty's Ministers—Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Bright, Sir Henry James, Mr. Courtney, and Mr. Mundella—kept their hats during the debate, walked out when the Speaker called for the general vote, and the Speaker took no notice the right hon. gentlemen must be in order.

On the vote for Prince Leopold on Thursday night about 30 Liberals left the House without voting.

Mr. Bright voted with the majority, as did Sir W. Harcourt and Sir Henry James. Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Mundella, and Mr. Fawcett, who had been present during the debate, walked out when the Speaker called for the general vote. The minority included the following Liberal members:—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and Messrs. G. Anderson, Armstrong, Broadhurst, Burt, and Messrs. G. S. Anderson, G. S. Anderson, Dilke, Dillwyn, Firth, Hopwood, Henderson, Hutchinson, C. H. James, Arnold Morley, McManis, T. B. Potter, Fiddie, R. N. Phillips, H. Richard, Lyph Stanley, P. A. Taylor, Thompson, Thomas, and Williams. The following Irish members voted with the minority:—Messrs. Barry, Biggar, Byrne, Corbet, Daly Healy, Lalor, Leamy, McCarthy, Metge, A. O'Connor, Power, Redmond, and Sexton. The tellers were Messrs. Labouchere and Storey.

It is understood that the Speaker will rule that neither the motion for a new writ for Northampton nor the motion that the electors of that borough be heard at the bar can be brought forward as a matter of privilege.

It has been arranged that Mr. Hugh Ramsell, Deputy Commissioner in the Pacific, shall establish his headquarters at the island of New Britain. A house is now being built for him on a small island on that coast. This arrangement will occupy when he is not engaged in making tours of inspection in the Western Pacific.

THE BALLOON VOYAGE ACROSS THE CHANNEL.

Further details of Colonel Burnaby's balloon voyage are now to hand:—

A Dover correspondent writes to the *Daily Telegraph*: Colonel Burnaby arrived at Dover on Wednesday, accompanied by Mr. Wright, the owner of the balloon in which it was the gallant officer's intention of making an aerial voyage across the Channel into the interior of France. All arrangements for the start were made on Wednesday, a spot being selected for inflating the balloon in the yard of the Buckland Gasworks, which are situated about a mile inland. If that arrangement had held good the Colonel would have ascended unobserved, as he proposed. But on Wednesday, a heavy rain fell, and the wind amounted to a gale, it was clear that the attempt must be put off till the morrow, and on Wednesday night the prospects for the following day were so hopeful that the Colonel was well satisfied. At six o'clock the balloon was begun, a main having been laid from a gasholder adjoining the works at Buckland to the balloon, which was placed in a wide space in the yard of the works. 35,000 ft. of gas was the amount required to inflate the balloon, and it certainly seemed to fill up very slowly. It had been calculated that the requisite amount of gas would be passed in by eight o'clock, but at that hour the balloon was not much more than half full. By nine o'clock the red and yellow striped object began to assume a more pear-like shape; the car, a stout, oblong wicker basket, was attached, and the stores laid in. They consisted of sundry bags of sand, a roll of canvas, a coil of rope, a bucket of water, and a bundle of papers. After the car had been got ready Mr. Wright, who had charge of the arrangements, still considered that more gas was required; while the Colonel, who had been waiting for some time impatiently, being anxious to step in and be off. Remarkably on the delay, he said, "I am afraid the wind will change about noon, and now it is twenty to ten. I have little better than two hours. Asked if he should be likely to telegraph the result of his trip, he said, "I am afraid not. If the wind is favourable I shall go on towards Paris, and if I come down in the provinces there are not the telegraph facilities in France that we have here. I shall be able to telegraph the result of my trip to-night." In reply to another question the Colonel said, "I have been up about thirty minutes. The sensation of rising is very pleasant; it is not like rising, but rather like the earth dropping away. To another inquirer he said, "That bundle of papers I do not take to read, but to tear up and throw out, to see whether I am rising or falling."

At 9.45 the gas was turned off, the six strong cords by which the car was attached to the balloon were adjusted, and Colonel Burnaby stepped in. Mr. Wright, dismissing all his assistants, now held the rope himself, to be assured that the buoyancy was sufficient to raise the car and its occupant. "All right," signalled the Colonel. "Off you go," shouted the attendant, and throwing the rope, the balloon rose rapidly. The spectators who had crowded round cheered, and the voyager waved his hat in acknowledgment. It became instantly obvious that the Colonel directed his attention,

first to the gasworks' buildings, and next to the tall chimney beyond, about which he had expressed some apprehension before he rose, and it now appeared to be directly in his course. To avoid a collision he threw out a bag of sand, and, as it seemed, this was done in the nick of time, for the next moment the aerostat shot above the roof of the building. A collision with the tall shaft still looked inevitable, and the spectators watched the ascent almost breathlessly. Nearing the chimney, however, the balloon swerved somewhat to one side and cleared everything. Loud and hearty were the cheers sent up by the crowd, and the gallant aeronaut acknowledged the plaudits by waving his hat. Thus luckily started, the voyage, so far as could be seen from the shore, appeared to be a speedy one. As the balloon passed over the town of Dover it was continually ascending, but the Colonel made no attempt to check it, for, with the aid of a glass, he could be seen sitting composedly on the side of his car smoking a cigar. In less than eight minutes from the ascent, which was made more than a mile inland, the balloon was seen over the land behind, and was going straight for Boulogne. During this time there had been no change in the wind or weather. The fresh breeze was tempered by a bright sunning, and at 10.30 the balloon was apparently seven or eight miles away over the sea, looking not larger than a man's head, keeping nearly the same course, but changing a couple of points from due south to east. At a quarter to eleven o'clock the sail opened, and the balloon was seen by the aid of the large telescopes at the Cinque Ports Yacht Club it was kept in view until eleven o'clock. Up to that time the voyage had, to all appearances, been most favourable, and there was every prospect that half an hour after the balloon was lost to sight here it had begun a journey onward on the opposite shore. The expectation of the Colonel that the wind would change about noon proved correct. Just before twelve the wind worked round from almost north to south-west, and there is no doubt that if the start had been delayed to as late in the day as that of Colonel Brine from Canterbury a similar or worse result might have followed. Passengers by the morning mail boat state that they traced the voyage as far as Cape Gris-Nez. The evening mail boat reports that the balloon was carried in the direction of Boulogne.

Private telegrams received at the House of Commons on Thursday night announced that Colonel Burnaby's safe journey across the Channel in the balloon.

At a meeting of the Balloon Society of Great Britain on Friday morning reference was made to the trip of Colonel Burnaby, and Mr. Le Fevre, the president, said he was exceedingly pleased to be able to state that he had received the following telegram: "Chateau de Montigny, Normandy.—Colonel Burnaby has been safely landed in the balloon 'Ediphe' in a meadow near Boulogne at seven o'clock last evening. A number of persons witnessed the arrival of the aeronaut, who has been looked for all along the coast. The Colonel was cheerfully received and received a hearty welcome." (Cheers.) Mr. Le Fevre said he had a second telegram from a friend of his who resides near the spot, and who had the pleasure of conversing with the gallant Colonel, who said the "Ediphe" behaved splendidly. He passed over Boulogne at seven o'clock, and proceeded in a south-westerly direction. Threw out some ballast, in order to find a current, if possible, to take me on to club at Paris. Over Lottouquet at a few minutes to two o'clock, still proceeding south-west. Wind chopped round, and the balloon, which I had taken the precaution to have plenty of, and providentially getting into a favourable current, was carried with expedition to Chateau de Montigny, having been about eight hours in the air.

VANITY FAIRINGS.

A very amazing story reaches me from Cairo. A Grenadier Guardsman, dining at the *table d'hôte* at Shepherd's hotel, perpetrated some harmless jests upon the waiter, and very promptly policed. The evening however Baron d'Atzel, an Austrian, gratified the Grenadier with the information that he was a "coward" and a "poltroon" for having acted as he had done. Now the Grenadier's education, being such as would fit him for the Guards, did not include a knowledge of French, and he probably therefore supposed that the Baron was paying him a compliment. But then the Baron went on to say that the Grenadier was a coward, and he was officially informed Sir Edward Malet, who does usually inform the Grenadier of what he had done. Sir Edward thereupon assembled a Court of Honour which promptly decided that everybody who either right or could easily be set right. But the Baron wouldn't do that. He went to a Club and there saw the Grenadier. He thereupon pointedly asked the Club waiter whether he (the waiter) allowed a man who had been publicly stigmatised as a coward and a poltroon to sit down in that Club. The waiter refused to do so, and the Baron knew—when the Baron added that all Englishmen were or were not something or other and did or did not do something or other. This time the Grenadier—who had possibly the best foreign language master in the world—had understood that there was a great wrong, for he is reported to have said that but for the Court of Honour he would have killed the Baron.

And now Mr. Oliphant (not Laurence Oliphant, who is elsewhere) came upon the scene. He apparently cares for no Courts of Honour, for he went for the Baron and asked him whether he meant to say that Englishmen in general were cowards. The Baron replied "Yes," whereupon Mr. Oliphant said, "Baron, with his list so that he saw many stars. Then the Baron challenged the Oliphant; but the Oliphant said he would see him somewhere first, and threatened to begin again if he was at all worried or in want of exercise. Then a cry went up to the gods of war and diplomacy. Gregory, P.O. and Goldsmith, C.B., and Colvin, K.C.M.G., and Money, and Dicey, and Smart assembled in their majesty and consulted and decided. First they decided that the Baron had intervened in affairs that did not concern him, and had committed on the person of Baron d'Atzel acts of violence of the gravest character; that Oliphant was without excuse; that the Baron had conducted himself like a perfect gentleman; and that, as Oliphant had previously said, "I am a coward," he refused the reparation demanded, the Baron's honour was not in the least affected. Then they decided that no insult had been offered to Englishmen in general; and then they decided that the assertion that a thrashing was given to the Baron was false. Then they sent it all to the newspapers.

If anybody—man of honour or otherwise—can see his way to understand the difference between "acts of violence of the gravest character," and "a thrashing," can reconcile the reputed answer of the Baron with the allegation that no insult was applied to Englishmen in general; or can see what business it was of Gregory, Goldsmith, Colvin, and Co. to pronounce on Oliphant, I envy his precocity. I rather like Oliphant. I also like Baron. As for the rest they look to me like a very queer lot.

The Salisbury Club was very near being burnt to the ground last week. A fire broke out in the smaller room that separates the two drawing-rooms, and was not discovered until it had nearly destroyed the doors. Had the fire occurred at night instead of in the day-time, as it did, there would have been little doubt as to the result.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, MARCH 27—28, 1882.

THE CLOTURE DEBATE.

It is a noteworthy feature of the present debate that, the Parmentiers excepted, there is a general disposition on the part of the House to admit the necessity for some reform in procedure. Nor can it be overlooked that, should the smallest of Mr. Gladstone's majority make his expected victory little less damaging than a pronounced defeat, his position as Prime Minister will have been shaken to its foundation by those on whose behalf he has occupied his energies to the exclusion of the other and scarcely less important items in the Liberal programme. Now, whether or not Mr. Gladstone understood from the first that he might expect ingratitude from that quarter, he must by this time be convinced that they whom he has assisted by every means in his power are not prepared to give up anything to him in return. Objections they were and obstructions they will remain until the end of the chapter. On the other hand, the legitimate Opposition have not obstructed the Government, but throughout the Sessions of 1880 and 1881 constantly voted with their opponents, even at the cost of rendering their amiable chief liable to the charge of lukewarmness. In all the divisions which led up to the Speaker's "coup d'état," and to the subsequent temporary restoration of order, the followers of Sir Stafford Northcote did, in fact, follow the front bench on their own side, and helped to swell the Government majorities. Strangely enough, the ingratitude which the Irish Members have shown in return for the labours of the Ministry has been displayed towards the Opposition by the party temporarily in power. They would probably have been prepared to support any reasonable Ministerial proposition calculated to put a stop to willful obstruction. But when they found that the Government were determined not to trust them, but to punish all for the sins of a few, they felt that the time had arrived when patriotism demanded that a final stand should be made against the assumption of arbitrary power by the Ministry of the day. What argument could be more fallacious than that which contends that the evident sense of four hundred and one individuals can be proved by the vote of the odd unit? A two-thirds majority, or something less than a two-thirds majority, might be accepted by the Opposition as a fair test of the wishes of the House. On such a question, however, as practically posing silence on a minority, equal in numbers to the controlling power, the plan is opposed to the spirit of the letter of government by the verdict of Mr. Gladstone in favour of the first of his Cloture resolutions? Would he be prepared to accept such a contingency as an expression of the confidence of the House of Commons, were the forthcoming division to yield such a result? One of the speakers, in the interest of the Government, on Monday night predicted that "the objections of the Conservatives to the Cloture would only last until they had the opportunity of applying it to a Liberal majority; then it would vanish as a re-echo." Surely that is not a very reassuring prospect as could be urged against its adoption. It is not for the general good that either of the great parties should be paramount on every question of the hour, or be at liberty to quell their opponents without a fair hearing, from one general election to the next. Were a choice of evils submitted to the nation, they would probably be inclined to endure an excess of talk rather than submit to free liberty of discussion placed at the mercy of the Leader of the House of Commons, to whichever party he might, for the time being, belong.—*Daily Telegraph.*

ITALIAN PROSPERITY.

Financial prosperity may not be a certain sign of national stability, but without it no State can hope for contentment within or security from without. The account of the Italian Budget given on Monday showed that the Government had reached a condition at length reached that enviable condition. Year after year financial equilibrium had been promised. Some unforeseen event at home or abroad always occurred to impose supplementary burdens. Now the kingdom appears to have arrived at the stage, for apparently not unknown to British Chambers of the Exchequer, when estimates of revenue prove to have been faintly framed. By an opportune coincidence, the official announcement of the novelty in the experience of the Italian Treasury comes at the moment of the celebration in Sicily of the great event which nearly doubled the dominions of Victor Emmanuel. General Garibaldi twenty-two years ago accomplished an enterprise which must in any case have covered his name with military glory. It did not equally follow that his deed of daring would promote the welfare of the territories he annexed. Gloomy prophecies were poured forth, both in Italy and outside, of the disasters sure to overwhelm Italy as South from the attempt of the amalgamate supposed incompatibilities of temperaments. Although the experiment has not been without interruption, Signor Magliani's statement of Saturday proves that it has at least not left Italy the poorer. Other testimony is present in

profusion to the national regeneration, in which the achievement of the spring of 1860 played a principal part. Italians of every portion of the peninsula are manifestly conscious of a larger life since Italy became one from Milan to Cape Passaro. The Italian People has grown visibly before Europe in stature since its restoration to the rank of a nation. The party of reaction itself has ceased to imagine the possibility of a reversal of the acts by which the period of anarchy and separatism was terminated. Any hope it retained of troubling rather than cancelling the final issue, rested chiefly on the apparent inability of the united monarchy to live within its means. Anticipations of confusion and discord arising from this source will have been profitably checked by the balance of revenue and expenditure for the past year, and the computations for the next.—*Times.*

THE ARTISTS' SEASON.

A philosopher commended by Mr. Carlyle wished that "the devil would fly away with the fine arts." Whatever we may think of this sentiment, it is certain that the burden upon it at this moment is considerable. Yes, whether we like it or not, the season of the fine arts is beginning, and, reversing the usually quoted arrangement, is upon the Philistines. On Sunday and Monday, and on Friday last, and doubtless at other times, pictures were exposed in studios and in halls, in a series of private views. There was a sound of revelry in Kensington High-street, and the Town-hall was thronged with persons whose original costumes and independent *coiffures* not to mention their outlay on daffodils, proclaimed their interest in art. Many pictures were hanging on the walls, but gaslight is not always favourable to pictures. On Sunday and Monday painters and sculptors, or many of them, received their friends, and displayed the results of their toil. It may be doubted whether this is a very wise custom. Pictures, perhaps, look best when seen in the place of their birth, as priaposes and other wildflowers look better in the woods than when they have to compete with gaudier blossoms on the hucksters' stalls. Pictures are very much influenced by their environment. In auction rooms they seem dingy, and put on a false air of having been taken, along with some Amontillado and a gross of violins, in a bill transaction. When Mr. Albert Grant's collection of Academy successes was sold at Christie's some years ago it was a thing to make one despair of our country's art. Were these things, dismal or garish, the late favourites of the public, the pictures that town and country cousins elbow each other in the effort to behold? On the walls of the Academy, pictures certainly look less dingy and forlorn than they do in a sale-room. But they are often so hung that a bright piece of colour kills something little gem, its neighbour. There are pictorial lumbos every year which succeed through some accidental circumstance, become the topic of gossip, and eclipse everything else. In the artist's studio paintings are at home, and are beheld in the light under which they were designed. This is all very pleasant for the spectators if they happen to know anything about art, but the stream of criticism in the style of Rose Mackenzie is perhaps less agreeable to the artist. Throngs of ladies who all like Miss Mackenzie in the "Newcomers," murmur "How soft, how sweet," flow through the studios. Any better informed and more searching criticism must be still less acceptable to an artist whose work is done, one who cannot alter it, even if he wishes. On the whole, the balance of arguments seems to make against the institution of "studio Sunday." But probably there is a good deal to be said on the other side, or the private view would never have come into existence. More than a month must pass before the Academy opens its doors. We shall hear enough about pictures from the first of May to Ascot, and even later, from visiting tourists to London.

Why should art? Yet already all our best and famous artists' works have been described and discussed. Mr. Burne Jones is said to have almost ready a view of the Tree of Forgiveness, a tree which may have some remote connection with that of the knowledge of Good and Evil. Sir Frederick Leighton's Phryne is sure to be beautiful, but what about the moral critics who some years ago made such a pother over a drawing of Mr. Burne Jones in the gallery of the Old Water-Colour Society? There are critics who constantly forget that searching remarks of the philosopher, that after all we are all naked under our clothes. The ancient Greeks, and Phryne especially, made the Eleusinian festival a pretext for being undressed in fine weather. By the way, what a topic for our archaeological artists does the Eleusinian festival afford. All Athenian men, or at least all the initiated, had to go down and take a solemn bath in the sea, each man swimming in company with a pig, the animal sacred to Demeter. The scene must have been most humorous. It appears that this year we are to expect no story-picture, with a narrative and a sermon in each compartment, from Mr. Frith. Mrs. Butler is to illustrate, by a fine incident from the Transvaal war, the noble motto *Floral Etone*. "We must be in the first rank," cried one Eton boy to another at Laing's battle. The enemies of Eton may grant that, if she does less than her duty to science, she certainly expects and teaches her soldier sons to be in the first rank, like Forbes in Afghanistan, and Elwes at Laing's Nek. And this is no inconsiderable educational service to the country.—*Daily News.*

POSTAL SERVANTS AND THEIR GRIEVANCES.

Although the report that the Treasury had sanctioned a general rise in the salaries of postal officials seems to be rather premature, it is understood that Mr. Fawcett is personally favourable to a proposal. Nor is it likely to fail in commendation itself to the public. The establishment of a parcels post is only a question of time, so is that of a system of letter insurance; and, in a very few years, the Post Office will have a virtual monopoly of the carriage of national valuables.—

Further, when its life insurance, from

being an absolute failure, becomes, like its savings banks, a decided success, it will not be less firmly established as the chief organization of the national thrift. As no State service is so bound up with the material interests of the country, so none is so exposed to the fierce light of public opinion, and so instant the attention of the nation can, by a "question" in Parliament, be concentrated on any blunder or delinquency, real or fancied, which is traceable to the Post Office, from the petty larcenies of a village letter-carrier to the opening of "seditions" letters or telegrams by the Home Secretary and the interests of "a high State policy." An addition to the staff of the service will not absolutely meet the growth in its duties. The permanent staff in St. Martin's-le-Grand, who do the bulk of the work of organization and control, feel an increase in the sense of responsibility, which is none the less real that it is vague and has come gradually, and which there is no method of rewarding except by an increase of salary. The work of the ordinary postal servant is at least as important as that of a clerk in the War Office or the Admiralty, or of what Mr. Gilbert, in "Patience," styles a "Somerset House young man," and it is much more absorbing than it once was. A well-known theatrical critic and an eminent scientist of the time are War Office clerks, but it is many years since the connection with the Post Office of the author of "A Black Sheep" and of Mr. Trollope—whose new story of "Marion Fay" deals to some extent with the private life of St. Martin's clerks—came to a close. Yet the maximum salary attainable by such a servant is only £800 a year, while in the Inland Revenue Department it reaches £900, and in the War Office and the Admiralty £1,000. There seems nothing unreasonable in the proposal that the postal official should be placed on a platform of equality with the men in other departments. But he also looks forward to the day when the prizes in the Post Office—above all, the well-endowed secretaries—shall be open only to men trained within it, when successive Postmaster-Generals shall have in a reorganized secretariat a standing committee of experts to guide them, and prevent their "new broom" enthusiasm from being wasted in useless crotchets. There is not a little to be said for this postal reform, as for the smaller one which is likely to be very long to be effected.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

FASHIONABLE INTELLIGENCE.

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the studios of Mr. J. E. Millais, R.A., and of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Millais, R.A., on Monday afternoon. Their Royal Highnesses, attended by Lady and Prince Charles, and accompanied by the Russian Ambassador at Chesham House in the evening.

The marriage of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, and Princess Helen of Waldeck will, it is expected, take place on or about the 27th inst. at Windsor. The ceremony will be performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the service will be a simple one. The wedding gifts will be presented by the residents of the Palace of St. James. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and Devon, and the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, will be the principal guests. The wedding gifts will be presented by the residents of the Palace of St. James. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and Devon, and the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, will be the principal guests. The wedding gifts will be presented by the residents of the Palace of St. James. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and Devon, and the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, will be the principal guests.

The Hon. Percy Wyndham, M.P., succeeded to the trusteeship of the Tedworth House, on the retirement of Sir Reginald Graham. The marriage of the Rev. W. A. Pusey, C.B., eldest son of the Very Rev. the Dean of York and Lady Emma Pusey-Cust, with Lucy Caroline, second daughter of the late Sir W. A. Pusey, Bart., took place on Monday at St. Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide, South Australia, on Tuesday, February 14.

A marriage, says the *Post*, is arranged to take place in April between Mr. St. Andrew Ward, R.H.C., son of General Sir Edward Ward, K.C.B., and Miss MacCall, daughter of Colonel MacCall, of Elibank, Ascot, and 31, Chapel-street, Belgrave.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

FROM THE "DAILY NEWS." We have reason to believe that no decision has been arrived at by the Cabinet on the question of renewing the Coercion Acts for Ireland. On the Opposition benches it is estimated that, including Conservatives, Liberal Unionists, and Mr. Marriot's amendment.

We understand that Mr. Shaw, Colonel Colthurst, Mr. Mitchell-Henry, Mr. P. J. Smyth, and the greater portion of the Irish members sitting on the right of the House, will vote with the Government on the first resolution of the Procedure Rules.

It is expected that the Committee of the House of Lords will endeavour to make a report on the purchase clauses of the Irish Land Act before Easter.

It is rumoured that a practical joke of a somewhat serious character has been perpetrated at the expense of the member for Eye. A notice has been handed in to the Clerk at the House, in the name of Mr. Ashmead, the table in the name of Mr. Ashmead, purporting to give notice that he will "call attention to the extraordinary want of information shown by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by the Secretary of State for India, with regard to the signature of the not in Mr. Ashmead's handwriting, the obvious intention being to bring the hon. member into ridicule.

We understand there is no truth in the statement of a Madrid paper telegraphed by the London English Commission is to be sent to Madrid to negotiate proposals for a Commercial Treaty with Spain.

A remarkable combination of opposition has been formed against the Bill, Messrs. Henry R. Charles, Mr. Callan, Mr. Alfred Watson, Mr. L. Dillwyn, J. Dick Peddie, W. S. Cairne, E. L. Stanley, Arnold Morley, Charles H. James, Sir Wilfred Lawson, Hugh Mason, A. McArthur, and Arthur Pease. The object of the meeting is to consider the Bill, and to express their opinion on it. The meeting is to be held at the House of Commons, and will be presided over by the hon. member for Eye.

A circular convening a meeting of members of the House of Commons who are favourable to religious equality has been issued by Messrs. Henry R. Charles, Mr. Callan, Mr. Alfred Watson, Mr. L. Dillwyn, J. Dick Peddie, W. S. Cairne, E. L. Stanley, Arnold Morley, Charles H. James, Sir Wilfred Lawson, Hugh Mason, A. McArthur, and Arthur Pease.

The Lord Advocate will move several amendments, which the Solicitor-General for Ireland has expressed his firm opinion that the measure, the object of which is to make the writs of the inferior Courts in Great Britain and Ireland run in three kingdoms.

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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock. Lord Sturges and Campbell gave notice that on Thursday he will ask whether the Government are prepared to give any information with respect to the alleged passage of Russian ships with armed men through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles.

Lord GRANVILLE, replying to Lord de la Warr, stated that there had been telegraphic communications in reference to the concession to M. René Duplessis of exportation districts in the Region of Tunis. Her Majesty's Government had not yet received a copy of the concession, and as they were still in communication on the subject with the French Government it would be premature at present to publish the correspondence.

Their Lordships adjourned at 25 minutes past 5 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The SPEAKER took the chair at four o'clock. Some 50 questions were addressed to various members of the Government, and it was half-past 5 o'clock before the Orders of the Day were reached. Almost the only question of general interest was put by Mr. Fawcett explained that his proposal had been sanctioned by the Treasury. The inland post will carry a maximum weight of 7lb. at a charge of 1s., with a descending scale for lesser weights, and it will be linked with the inland post extending to all European countries, except Russia, and to Egypt and Asiatic Turkey. As an illustration of the scale for this he said that a parcel of 3 kilograms (6½ lb.) would be conveyed to France for 1s. 9d.

In answer to Sir S. Northcote, Mr. Gladstone said that Miscellaneous Estimates, including the Education vote, would be taken on Monday and Tuesday.

After the Duke of Albany's Establishment Bill had been read a second time,

THE CLOTURE.

The adjourned debate on the *cloture* was resumed by Sir H. GIFFARD, who pointed out that after the speeches of Lord Hartington and Sir W. Harcourt the object of the Government could no longer be represented as the extinction of obstruction, but was simply to give the Government power to stop discussion which was neither obstructive nor repetition. He protested that he would prefer to leave the matter entirely to the Speaker than to this mixture of two authorities, and, enlarging on the difficulty of ascertaining the "evidence" of the House, he pointed out that, though the division might show the Speaker to be wrong, yet his decision would be confirmed and acted upon. The significance of the rule, he remarked, was increased by the speeches of the Ministerial Speaker, and the House which left no doubt that it was to be worked for the purpose of passing party measures, and they had no right, therefore, to call on their opponents to assist them. There had been no departure by the great body of members from the old understanding, and the Government were brought to a close; and there was no real motive for reversing the old tradition of Parliament to quicken the accomplishment of a party programme.

Mr. DONOHUE thought that the extreme alarm with which the proposal was regarded was due to a confusion of terms and ideas. The traditional Parliamentary freedom of speech was not the right of unrestricted locution, but the right to discuss any political subject and to express any political opinion without fear of consequences. The object of the rule was to bring a debate to a close when a subject had been completely thrashed out and was ripe for a decision, and the abuse of it which had been conjured up would require the concurrence of an intemperate majority, and a torpid constituency. There was already, he pointed out, a power of closure—as he preferred to call it, on the authority of Shakespeare and Pope—in "counts-out," and the 545 rule on Wednesday.

Mr. MOWBRAY admitted the necessity of some considerable change in the rules, but expressed his great regret that the Government had presented their proposals in the form of a gag and manacle to diminish the strength of one party and to resist the other. He would also resist the other, and he would not allow himself to consider the other rules, most of which he heartily approved.

Mr. WOODHOUSE regretted the necessity of making the change, but entertained no doubt that it was the very least which would suffice to check the growing danger to the efficiency and dignity of Parliament. Mr. Grantham, on the other hand, held that the real evil might be met by other measures less objectionable, and Mr. Rogers contended that the rule was not a revival, in a limited form, of the power possessed by former Speakers. Mr. J. A. Campbell held that such a rule as this ought not to be imposed on the House, except by general consent, and preferred a three to one majority rule to a form so full of anomalies as the present.

Mr. ARTHUR also opposed the resolution, asserting that it was not he, but the leaders of his party who had changed their minds when they introduced a proposal which they formerly opposed, and which was antithetical to true Liberalism. Everybody admitted that the measure must be done, but the *cloture* would do nothing to save time, and it legitimately applied would not have advanced the business of the House by a single hour. He could not understand why the Government should insist on the *cloture* in a form so repugnant to many of their own party—not less than one hundred, he said; but if it was adopted it should be accompanied with safeguards, such as shorter Parliaments, to make it sure that the arrogant majority truly represented the country. The *cloture* would increase the length of speeches, would lead to prearranged debates, and would obliterate private members altogether. But as the Government presented the question as one of confidence, he could not vote against them, though he could not vote for the *cloture*.

Mr. NORTHCOKE foresaw that the operation of the rule would deprive the leaders of the Opposition of one of their principal functions, the protection of minorities, and doctor's work, if it was intended to oppress minorities, the Resolution should not say so.

Mr. WHITEHEAD thought the fears of the Opposition exaggerated, while their estimate of the difficulties was inadequate. Diluting the dangers with the undue prolongation of debate, he repeated Mr. Dodson's contention that abuse of the power was most improbable. As to the two-thirds majority, he saw no advantage to be gained by departing from the old rules, and he pointed out that a proportional majority would be more tyrannical than a bare majority. He admitted, however, that he did not expect too much from the proposal—though he contended, in opposition to Sir H. Cross and others, that the subsequent rules would not touch obstruction—but he supported it in the hope that it would bring back some measure of the self-restraint which the House was in danger of losing.

Mr. MCCARTHY denied that obstruction had been as active in this Parliament as the last, when those who resorted to this mode of opposition had the assistance and the counsel of some eminent members of the present Government. As to the present Parliament, the only cause and occasion of obstruction was the Coercion Bill. The opposition of the Irish members might be got rid of by a change in the mode of governing Ireland, and he put it to the House whether it was worth departing from the ancient ways of Parliament to

meet a state of things which it was to be hoped would not be permanent. At the same time, as he showed by relating several amusing passages of Parliamentary history, something in the nature of obstruction had always existed even before the Reform Bill.

Sir W. H. DAVIS, speaking from experience gained as a "Whip," maintained that the *cloture* would not touch the evils under which the House was labouring, while it must lead ultimately to serious demoralization. Under operation of the Rule there must always be an irritated minority, and the difficulty of guiding the House and managing its business must, therefore, be greatly increased.

On the motion of Mr. BRIGHT the debate was further adjourned until Thursday.

Scotch members experienced a decided check. The House adjourned at 25 minutes past 5 o'clock.

MORE OUTRAGES IN IRELAND.

At one o'clock on Monday morning a six-inch metal shell was thrown into the residence of Messrs. Henry Lucas Brothers, Donnamway, Letterkenney. A terrible explosion ensued, demolishing two rooms. The inmates, who occupied distant apartments, escaped uninjured. Messrs. Lucas are extensive farmers.

A Ballinacree correspondent writes:—Yesterday afternoon an attempt was made to blow up the house occupied by Mr. John Ross Mahon, agent to Lord Clonbrock, at Weston, Ahascragh. Some dynamite had been placed near the drawing-room window, and it exploded about three o'clock, with a report which was heard several miles off. Mr. Mahon, jun., and four servants were in the house at the time, but escaped uninjured. Part of the wall was blown down, and all the windows in the house were broken. Mr. Paul, resident magistrate, visited the place during the day, but no arrests have as yet been made.

ALLEGED FENIAN PLOTS IN LONDON.

It is stated that information of an alarming character has reached some of the authorities with reference to alleged Fenian designs on London. The police force at the docks has been increased to 600 men, who must duty soon after dusk. All the entrances to the docks are specially guarded by picked reliable police-men, with the addition of mounted patrols. In addition to these precautions, the water-way and the shipping in the docks are watched by special police in galleys throughout the night. It is stated that the secret information which reached the authorities before the recent outbreak of fire, stating that some serious designs were being made at the docks, did not point to Messrs. Kirkaldy's engineering works as the place where the conflagration might be expected, but to Messrs. Bell, Burt, and Hayward's place for the picking and drying of railway sleepers. Had the conflagration occurred there, it is stated that the fire would have been most disastrous, and in all probability the Volunteers' Armory, in the confusion which would have ensued, might have been easily rifled. Over this place, however, a special guard was kept that night, and this is believed to have prevented an incendiary fire at that spot. The authorities are reluctant as to the full grounds for all the extra precautions, but it is stated among the officials that one of the chief parts in the plot, according to the information received, is that it was intended to blow the dock tunnel up by dynamite, if such a thing as this had been accomplished, the loss of life and destruction of property must have been serious. The dock tunnel is about half a mile in length, through which the railway runs to North Woolwich. It has a series of nears, and is situated under the Custom House Dock, and runs under the docks to Silvertown. The docks over the railway tunnel are 40ft. deep in water, and it is alleged that it was the Fenian intention to blow it up about midday. The result would have been terrible, and had such a plan been carried out, as the country lies low, thousands of families sleeping unconsciously in their beds must have been inundated and drowned.

A HOAX AT SHREWSBURY.

On Thursday last a stranger appeared at Shrewsbury, representing that he was employed by the Admiralty, and was on his way to the Admiralty, who had purchased an estate near Hadnall—five miles off—to request certain tradesmen in the town to meet his master at his new residence on Friday morning, to receive orders for certain repairs which were necessary to be done on his newly acquired property. One resident had an order for 8,000 yards of fencing; another received an order for a deep well-pump; a third was ordered to glaze all the dilapidated windows in the house; a fourth had an order to paint the front walls; while the fifth was directed to provide a brass barrel pump, and so on. At each establishment the stranger visited an arrangement was made with the proprietor to come to Hadnall by 11.45 train on Friday morning, and a promise was given that a trap should be ready to convey him to meet him and convey him to the residence of his new customer. In almost all cases the visitor, after giving the orders, pulled out his purse, expressed his doubts as to whether he had sufficient in his pocket to pay for his lunch, and most of the tradesmen visited doubtless thinking of the "big job" to which they had apparently been introduced, without any hesitation, put their hands in their pockets and placed various amounts of loose silver in the fellow's hand. Several of the tradesmen were so anxious to be the first of so good a thing that they could not wait for the train, but took vehicles on Friday morning and drove over from Shrewsbury to Hadnall; while others, furnished with patterns of their stock, took the 11.45 train, and arrived at Hadnall at the little country station they found that the promised conveyance was not in readiness, and inquiries soon convinced them that they had been the victims of a well-planned hoax. Their disappointment can be better imagined than described, but worse than all was the pleasant "chaff" to which they had to submit on their return from their fellow townsman.

JUMBO AT SEA.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes the following special messages:—*Off the Lizard, Monday (2.30 p.m.)*—All well on board *Assarian Monarch*. Wind N.E., still blowing hard. Weather fine, and barometer very high. Jumbo quiet without his chains, but rising. Jumbo quiet without his chains, but rising. Jumbo quiet without his chains, but rising.

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DEATH OF PROFESSOR T. H. GREEN.

Professor Thomas Hill Green, M.A., died at Oxford on Sunday, at the age of forty-two. A brilliant career as an undergraduate at Balliol, where he took his B.A. degree in 1859, and after writing the English Essay (1862), Mr. Green was made Fellow and tutor of his college, and for many years undertook more especially the philosophical teaching of the Honour students. His great and recognized success in his work led to his appointment as Whyte's Professor of Moral Philosophy, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Wilson, the late President of Corpus Christi College. Mr. Green gave much time and attention to political and social questions, especially as they affected the welfare of the city of Oxford. A correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—A strong and sound Liberal, he took an active part in the political education of the citizens, and his speech, whether as an advocate of Liberal opinions or of temperance, of which he was a warm supporter, will long be remembered in Oxford. The respect felt for his high character and abilities led the citizens to desire his presence at the annual meeting of the University professor and civic council, which he exerted all and more than all his strength in advancing and developing education. It is to Professor Green, more than to any other man, that Oxford owes its High School for boys, to which he was a most liberal contributor; it is also to him that the Oxford Election Commission was largely due.

Mr. BRADLAUGH.—Mr. Bradlaugh opened his provincial campaign on Monday night before a crowded meeting in St. George's-hall, Bradford. He appealed the meeting to render him their support in the struggle to uphold the rights of the electors everywhere.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The movement inaugurated by the Prince of Wales to found a Royal College of Music is meeting with most satisfactory support. In addition to the subscriptions promised by the London Corporation and City Companies, over £20,000 has been given, so that the first £100,000 of the original sum of £300,000 required for the undertaking has been practically secured. In the course of the present and next month meetings are to be held in most of the large provincial towns, with a more specially point out the character of the work the new institution will undertake. One of these meetings will be held in Nottingham, on the 22d of April, at which the Duke of St. Albans, as Lord Lieutenant of the county, will preside.

COLONEL BURNABY'S BALLOON VOYAGE.

After an interview with a publishing firm in London on Saturday Colonel Burnaby left for Windsor. He has given an account of his trip and experiences, of which the following is a summary:—The balloon, the moment it was released, shot up to a high altitude and commenced at once to travel at a satisfactory rate of speed in the direction of Folkestone, leaving the high pinnacle of chalk known as Shakespeare's Cliff on the left. The Colonel, as soon as he had time to look around, saw that he was moving in the right course to Paris, and for some time afterwards he expected it would be a close race between himself and the passengers by the Continental mail-packet as to who should arrive first at the French capital. As soon as he approached he experienced a decided check. He was, in fact, drifting down Channel to the east. At the time when the wind changed he was within seven miles of Boulogne and travelling at a fair rate. He now tried several tactics with the view of getting again into a favourable current, but did not let out any great quantity of gas, as he hoped before long the wind might change in his favour. After thus drifting for about two hours matters began to look serious. About three o'clock a dead calm set in, and the balloon remained motionless, a couple of thousand feet above the level of the sea, which was plainly discernible by the unaided eye. For a whole hour the traveller remained thus balanced, and, as it were, lifted in mid air. Eventually, finding that the wind had completely failed at the altitude he had then attained, Colonel Burnaby determined to make one or more efforts to gain a favourable current. Carefully gauging the instruments and taking reckonings in every quarter of the compass, and noting an apparent drift of the clouds above him towards the French coast, the gallant Colonel availed himself of his last resource, and emptied every remaining sack of ballast, and awaited the result with some trepidation. The balloon shot up far into the midst of the clouds, and, after being over 11,000 feet. For a moment the Colonel could not understand in what direction he was progressing, if at all. When the balloon, however, had steadied itself, the observations he was enabled to take showed that he was travelling with immense velocity, fortunately towards the French coast, which he had kept in sight the whole time. The only fear he now entertained was lest this favourable wind current should chop round suddenly and carry him out of his intended course. Very soon after getting into the favourable current, he for the first time found he was over the French coast, and could see the villages quite distinctly. He passed directly over Dieppe and Gennevilliers, and some twelve miles behind. Then, as evening was closing in, and he was in a strange country, he decided to descend at once. Selecting as his landing place a recently ploughed field free from trees, he threw the grappling iron and brought up "most successfully."

THE PAY OF THE HOUSE GUARDS STAFF.

The officers on the Horse Guards Staff are in future to be paid a consolidated amount, including all full-pay, half-pay, or unattached pay. Their salaries from the 1st prox. will be as follows, viz.:—His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, £6,632; Adjutant-General (Lieutenant-General Sir Garnet Wolseley), £2,700; Quarter-master-General (Lieutenant-General A. J. Herbert, C.B.), £2,100; Military Secretary (Lieutenant-General E. A. Whitmore, C.B.), £2,150; Assistant Military Secretary (Major-General Martin Dillon, C.B., C.S.I.), £1,100; two Deputy Adjutant-Generals, one for Auxiliary Forces (Major-General R. B. Hawley, C.B., and J. H. P. Elkington, C.B.), £1,700 each; one Deputy Quarter-master-General (Major-General Sir A. Arnold Alison, Bart., K.C.B.), £1,700; two Deputy Adjutants-General (Major-General Sir C. G. Arbuthnot, K.C.B., R.A., and Colonel Sir J. Stokes, K.C.B., R.E.), £1,500 each; one Inspector-General of Recruiting (Major-General E. G. Bulwer, C.B.), £1,500. The figures we have given will doubtless be interesting, and will, perhaps, have the effect of removing many erroneous impressions which exist as to the remuneration of those in whose hands the administration of the Army is placed. Considering what the duties and responsibilities of the several officers are, and that they have in many cases sunk several thousand pounds in the purchase of their commissions, it can scarcely be said that they are too liberally paid.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

THE CONVICT LAMSON.—MR. A. W. MILLS.

Lamson's solicitor, received a letter from him on Monday with reference to business matters, and in it the convict as strenuously as ever asserts his innocence of the crime of which he has been found guilty. He makes no allusion whatever to the efforts being made by his behalf by his friends, and he refers at all to the subject of a reprieve. Mr. Mills has returned to London from Bournemouth, whither he proceeded to make inquiries as to some important facts which have been brought to his knowledge. He found, says the Press Association, that at one chemist's shop in Bournemouth the prisoner purchased no less than seven ounces of morphia in a month, and at another there was an account for morphia amounting to £12. Inquiries made at different hotels pointed to the prisoner being a very moderate drinker, but every one seems to have regarded him as being almost insane from the use of morphia. Whilst in Bournemouth, he appears to have been very charitable towards the poor, and was in the habit of giving orders to various tradesmen for coals and other necessary articles for delivery to poor persons. In most of these cases the accounts remain unpaid, and of course

A four-page Supplement is published with this day's number of the MESSENGER, and will be delivered gratis with each copy of the paper. It contains our American news and an interesting variety of literary extracts.

LONDON, MARCH 29—30, 1882.

For some time past an unusual amount of discussion has taken place in the French press on a question which has almost as much interest for ourselves as for our neighbours. This is the great Monte Carlo question—the question whether or not the gambling Casino at Monaco is to be allowed to go on or is to be suppressed by persuasion or force. After long smouldering, this question has at last begun to burn. It has agitated the world of journalism for the past few weeks, and, as our readers have lately been informed, it has also agitated the streets of London.

Empire their position was amended, by the Treaty of Paris Monaco was made independent of France and handed over to the protection of the King of Sardinia. Still the Prince continued to exercise practical sovereignty, not only over the infinitesimal territory of Monaco, over the neighbouring fiefs of Mentone, Roccabruna; and, impoverished as he was, he made these unhappy communes the weight of his exactions. The names of Prince Honoré and his son, the last monarch still fresh in the memory of the older generation of Monaco; and still in the mountain valleys traveller is shown the mills where the peasant was obliged to buy his flour at the Prince's price or to take his olives crushed for the Prince's profit. In 18 Montone, like the rest of the world, saw a revolution, and the reigning House of Monaco found itself stripped once more of its principal territory and of almost all its revenues. It was soon after this, when some years the Grimaldis had exhausted the bitter lot of haggard living almost starving, the idea of establishing a gambling table at Monaco; and the impecunious Prince was glad enough to give a concession. The concern languished till 1856 to 1860, when M. Blanc, the banker of Homburg, offered the astonished delighted owners the sum of £70,000 sterling. Under the skilled management of a new proprietor, the "Société des Bains de Mer," as the gambling company is called, began to prosper moderately; but it was not till the construction of the new way, in 1868, that it took that leap to the front which has made of this lovely spot one of the most visited spots in the known world. The change that has passed since it fourteen years is astonishing. The Casino was first opened it alone on a cliff, with the sea below and an olive-covered slope stretching to Turbia behind. One well-appointed saloon stood ready to house the players; and band performed in an empty hall; the visitors were few and not crowded. Now the Casino is counted by hundreds of thousands every year—in 1880 the figure was 334,810; great actresses and opera singers are engaged at enormous prices for amusement of the fair folk; the Casino thronged with almost every available site of land with villas or hotels; and land sold at a hundred francs the square yard. More of tables are in constant use from midnight till midnight, and hundreds of persons from all parts of Europe are occupied continually in the fascinating and hopeless struggle against the inevitable gambler which the Bank must win. Mean-

Political feeling in Natal regarding the elections runs high, though the only contest yet is in Durban. The situation of affairs certainly peculiar, as Lord Kimberley practices a small colony like Natal to take upon its shoulders all the responsibility of defending Imperial interests in South-East Africa, without any offer of aid in doing so. The Government party say, "We are prepared to undertake the government and defence of the colony itself, but we require the co-operation of the Imperial Government in Zululand." At meetings held in Ladysmith and Verulam resolutions to this effect have been carried.

John Dunn is at present in Durban. All quiet in his district. Colonial feeling regards the Government's proposed visit to England the most unfortunate mistake. Trouble is all leaving the country. There are no Transvaal news.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

Persons of ordinary intelligence who heard, have read, Mr. Gladstone's speech in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon will not need to be assured that it contained no indication, much less any declaration, of a change of front in the relations of the Government to the Ministry, and the issue of to-day's vote on Mr. Marriott's amendment. A statement has, with obvious intention, been circulated that the Ministers have altered their views on this matter since Lord Hartington spoke; it may be desirable to state that there is not the slightest foundation for the

Sir Henry Wolff proposes to take the opportunity of Mr. Errington's return further to prosecute his inquiry into the nature of that gentleman's mission to Rome.

Mr. Peter Rylands has undertaken to make an appeal to Mr. Richard Power, begging him, in the interest of public business, to withdraw the blocking notice which prevents the Public Accounts Committee being nominated. As was explained a fortnight ago in the quarrel between the Land League members and the Treasury is that Lord Frederick Cavendish does not intend again to submit the name of Mr. Parnell as a member of the committee.

very numerous attended in order to secure the members of the House of Commons to be sworn to religious equality was held in one of the Committee Rooms under the presidency of Mr. H. Richard, M.P., for the purpose of considering the many ecclesiastical Bills now before the House. It was generally agreed that they are in future pursued in connection with ecclesiastical questions. After a number of resolutions had been considered, and the course to be taken with respect to them discussed, it was resolved that a representation should be made to the Government that opposition should be made to the measures of the Lord Chancellor's Augustinian and Benefices Amendment Bill and Mr. Stanhope's Stagnation Bill. It was decided that support should be given to Mr. Leatham's Bill relating to Church patronage, The Cemeteries Bill and the proposed support at the meeting. The Articles agreed to point out to the Committee to secure united Parliamentary action in regard to ecclesiastical questions.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT A BIRMINGHAM THEATRE.—At the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, Mr. Wilson Barrett's theatre company commenced an engagement in *Proof* last Monday night there was a large audience, especially in the gallery, which was crowded. Towards the close of the performance Thomas Peas, aged twenty-seven, a cooper, who was the back of the steep gallery, endeavoured to get a seat, but in the attempt met with misfortune, he fell backwards over the top rail position, and the result was that he rolled down the aisle, and landed among the seats. He made his clumsy packed audience, and then they were all looking at him as he lay on the floor. The gallery ledge, being so full of people, the fall of the actor caused very serious injuries, and was taken to the Queen's Hospital. He is in a critical condition.

The House of Lords held a formal sitting on Wednesday, when the Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Consolidated Fund (No. 2) Bill.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday Mr. CALLAN gave notice of his intention to put a question to the First Lord of the Treasury to-day in reference to certain opinions on the Irish question expressed by Mr. Courtney in his election speeches in East Cornwall.

Sir A. GORDON moved the second reading of the Agricultural Holdings, Notices of Removal (Scotland) Bill, the object of which he explained it, is to require that landlords in Scotland shall give two years' notice (instead of 40 days' as at present) to tenants and lease when they intend to bring the tenancy to a termination. He recommended it chiefly on the ground that it would enable tenants under such circumstances to make arrangements with their landlords or to find fresh farms. It was supported by Mr. M'Lagan, Sir H. Maxwell, and many other Scotch members, accepted by the Lord Advocate, and

Dr. CAMERON next moved the second reading of the Civil Imprisonment (Scotland) Bill, which diminishes and in some cases abolishes imprisonment for what are termed in Scotland "alimentary debts." It was in like manner supported by the Scotch members and the Lord Advocate accepted it on the understanding that its details would require modification in a select committee. The Bill was then read a second time and ordered to

Mr. CHEETHAM moved the second reading of the Commonable Rights Bill, which supplies defects in the Lands Clauses Appropriation Act and the Enclosures Act, by providing a more easy means of appropriating the compensations paid for the compulsory appropriation of commonable rights to such purposes as the improvement of the remaining common land, the purchase of new land, and the acquisition of recreation grounds, etc. After a short discussion it was read a second

Mr. BRINTON next moved the second reading of the Burial Fees Bill, which proposes to regulate, equalize, and reduce the charges payable for burials, erection of monuments, &c., on the principle that no payment shall be made where no service is rendered and he stated his willingness to refer the Bill to a select committee. Its rejection was moved by Mr. J. G. Talbot, who was seconded by Colonel Makins, who regarded the Bill as an attack on the endowments of the clergy, and pointed out that the House had only the day before appointed a select committee to inquire into the whole subject.

Mr. SALT maintained that it was contrary to the ordinary practice to go on with legislation when a committee had been appointed to inquire whether legislation was necessary, and deprecated a reopening of the burials question.

Mr. O. Morgan supported the second reading on behalf of the Government, urging that the subject required investigation chiefly on account of the inequality of these fees, and that the bill could not be referred to the select committee appointed the day before unless it were first read a second time.

Mr. BRADFORD-HOPE insisted that it was contrary to equity and common sense to bias the committee by reading the bill a second time; while Sir W. Harcourt, on the other hand, pointed out that the appointment of a select committee had committed the House to a consideration of the grievance, and that it was the commonest thing in the world to read a bill a second time under such circumstances.

Sir J. Mowbray and Mr. Stuart-Wortley opposed the bill; Mr. L. Stanley supported it; and Mr. T. Collins was speaking against it when the hour for adjournment arrived.

The Duke of Albany's Establishment Bill was read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to six o'clock.

FASHIONABLE NEWS.
The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the studio of Miss Grant, at Albany-street, Regent's-park, on Wednesday to see the bust and medallion of the late Dean of West-

The Prince and Princess of Wales visited the studio of Miss Grant, at Albany-street, Regent's-park, on Wednesday to see the bust and medalion of the late Dean of Westminster.

The Prince of Wales presided at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday evening at the festival given in aid of the funds of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Queen's-road, Chelsea.

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at the Strand on Wednesday in the *Lively* steam-ship, and proceeding on board the *Hercules*, made an official inspection of the coastguard who had assembled there. In the evening the Duke, accompanied by several officers, dined at the Royal Dorset Yacht Club at Chelsea, and afterwards returning to the *Lively* in a steam-launch.

The Duchess of Edinburgh and suite witnessed the performance of *The Squire* at the St. James's Theatre on Wednesday evening. Earl and Countess Granville had a dinner party at their residence in Carlton House-terrace on Wednesday evening. Later Countess Granville gave the last of a series of evening parties before Easter.

The Earl and Countess Cadogan have arrived at Chelsea House from Montone. The Earl of Rosebery has left Lansdowne House for Dalmeny Park, near Edinburgh. The Countess of Gainsborough is now progressing favourably, and may at length be

The Speaker gave his fifth parliamentary full-dress dinner on Wednesday evening to the following noblemen and gentlemen:—The Earl of Bective Viscount Folkestone, the Hon. W. Portman, Colonel the Hon. E. Digby, the Hon. Guy Dawnay, Sir Rainald Knightley, Sir John St. Aubyn, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Edmund St. John.

Edward Watkins, Mr. George Howard Colborne, Mr. George Walsord, Mr. F. Milbank, Mr. Foljambe, Mr. Harcourt, Mr. J. E. Gorey, Mr. Halsey, Mr. H. H. Vivian, Mr. Macdonald, Mr. B. Potter, Mr. Agnew, Mr. Corriale, Mr. Cheetham, Mr. Ercroy, Mr. Orr Ewing, Mr. Findlay, Mr. Greer, Mr. Harcourt, Mr. J. E. Gorey, Mr. W. L. Jackson, Mr. Lardino, Mr. Patrick Martin, Mr. Pease, Mr. C. N. Phipps, Mr. W. Rice Powell, Mr. A. H. Ross, Mr. Shield, the Hon. and Rev. F. Byng (chaplain), Mr. Valter Campion (private secretary).

The Hon. Mrs. Mostyn and Miss Violet Mostyn have returned to London, after spending the winter in Egypt.

THE POSITION OF NAVAL ENGINEERS.
In Mr. Trevelyan's lucid exposition of the Navy Estimates not the least satisfactory part of it was his account of the changes which are taking place in the official and social position of naval engineers. The question is perhaps one which the country at large has not troubled itself much about; it is nevertheless one of the very greatest importance to the well-being of the service. The high scientific education which our young engineers

work receive renders them undoubtedly better qualified as officers, but at the same time it has the effect of rendering them less essential to the handicraftsmen, and renders them less excellent as artificers in which capacity they have been formerly too much employed. It is not only that; with each improvement in their position and their training, they become an expense more than a saving to the State. The artificers, who ought not to exercise their manual skill in the engine-room, any more than the officers on the quarter-deck are required to haul on the ropes or to go aloft to reef and furl. Aloft the foremost masts are manned in such manner as to be working in the most efficient manner, and so also of the engine-room, and so also of the class of petty officers has been instituted, under the name of engine-room artificers, differing from their

fellows of the masts and yards mainly in the navy, being entered as skilled workmen who can do the comparatively high wages they get on the high wages on board ship. The necessary quality and character, as they gather experience, are valuable servants of the Crown; and shore they might look forward to the same remuneration as artificers, or to some rise still more more notable. It is not as if they can become chief-artificers, with pay rising after six years' service, to 7s. 6d. a day which, with lodgings, lights, and provision for food and a certain pension in the end, could be no more disadvantageous than the employment of artificers, and possibly in private employ. The system of employing these artificers to do the manual work which could not in any sense be considerably developed itself has grown up and has largely developed itself. The Admiralty Board of Admiralty carrying it to a greater length than their predecessors; so that whereas in 1863 there were no fewer than 11,000 commissioned naval engineers, the number of artificers has increased to 11,000 at 650—the difference being due to the employment of artificers. "The duties for which officers, with their long and expensive training and commissioned rank, are not needed for the most part, and are more to the class of chief engineers and officers, who will be increased up to the number of 150, as the existing staff of engineer officers diminishes; and, if the Admiralty Board of Admiralty is continued by increasing the chief engineers, and decreasing the engineers, as long as their united number does not exceed 800." It is this most important change in the duties of the two classes of officers which renders possible the change also going on in the composition. They have now the education of officers, the duties of officers, and they claim to be socially recognized as officers. And indeed, suddenly, but cautiously, and not, indeed, in every new ship that is now building arrangements are made for the engineers to mess in the wardroom and gunroom; and in the messes the process of amalgamating the messes is going on at all possible rapidity. This, more even than the high pay which is open to them, will win them to the service, and will continually react on the new entries, until our engineer officers are on a par with the officers of the naval staff as our commanders and lieutenants themselves. —*Pall Mall Gazette*.

According to the most recent arrangements the marriage of Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, with Princess Helen of Waldeck-

will be celebrated in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, on Thursday, April 27, and the Princess is expected to leave Germany for England on or about the 10th April. There will be eight bridesmaids, and the names of the young ladies selected for the honour are as follows:—Lady Seymour Conyngham, Lady Mary Campbell, Lady Alexandra Louisa Maud Vane Tempest, Lady Florence Beatrice Anson, Lady Ermyntrude Russell, Lady Eva Sarah Louisa, Lady Anne Catherine Sybil Lindsay, and Lady Anne Catherine Frances Graham. The Archbishop of Canterbury will officiate at the ceremony, and the assistant prelates will be the Bishops of London, Oxford, Worcester and Winchester. It is expected that the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught will be the principal guests of the best men. The ceremonial of procession will be based upon that of the last Royal marriage at Windsor, and it is asserted that there will be a State banquet and a ball at the Castle in the evening of the event. Preparations are to be made for the marriage of St. George's Chapel on Monday next, when the covers of the altar will be approached will be begun. The chapel will be closed on the 10th, and no service will be held until a week after the wedding. The Gray and Rutland Chapels will, it is expected, be used as sitting rooms, and tiers and seats will be placed in the aisle on the south side of the nave for the accommodation of the ladies.

The fine organ will be supplemented by instrumental music, and the service will be choral one. The Ambassadors, Ministers, and the Royal Household will, as usual, travel from London by special train, leaving at 11.15 for the marriage, and on arriving at the station will be conveyed to the south entrance of St. George's Chapel. The members of the Royal Household who do not take part in the ceremony will be seated in the choir stalls. At 1.15 the bride and groom will arrive. At 2.15 the quarter to twelve the Prince of Wales, with other members of the Royal Family with other Majesty's Royal guests, will leave the castle, followed a quarter of an hour later by the bridesmaids, the brides, and the bridesmaids, and shortly after half-past twelve the bride, with her father and other members of her family with their suites, attended by a Captain's escort of the 2nd Life Guards, will arrive. The bride will be met by the bridegroom, given away by her father, and the bride will be conducted to the service. The "Hallelujah Chorus" will be sung by the choir, and guns will be fired in the Long Walk; the "Wedding March" will be played by the organ as the bride and groom, escorted by the bridesmaids, the royal personages leave. The organ of the procession from Windsor Castle to St. George's Chapel will be kept by a detachment of the Scots Guards, and a travelling escort of the Life Guards will escort the bride and groom as far as Chertsey on their way to Claremont.

CHANNEL TUNNEL.
The April number of the *Nineteenth Century*

contains the following protest against the proposed Channel—"The undersigned—having due attention called to certain proposals made by commercial companies for joining the Continent of Europe by a railway across the Channel under the Channel Tunnel Bill, have announced that (notwithstanding any precautions taken or suggested by the projectors) such a railroad would involve this country in military dangers and liabilities from which it must be forever relieved; have no doubt as to its expediency and are hereby ready to sign their emphatic protest against the same, and will insist that the Government must sanction or execution of any such work."

Marquis of Bath, Marquis of Sligo, Earl of Pembroke, Earl of Lynton, Lord Dunsany, Viscount Valentia, Viscount Halifax, Lord Grosvenor, Lord Ponsonby, Lord Curzon, Lord Avebury, Lord Finsbury, Lord St Albans, Sir John Lubbock, Bart., Sir Arthur Murray, Bart., Admiral Sir John Dalrymple Hay, Bart., M.P., Sir Henry Holland, Bart., Mr. Parnell, W.P., Mr. J. G. Thompson, M.P., James W. Barclay, Esq., The Duke of Devonshire, M.P., Mr. George Howard, M.P., Mr. Ralli, M.P., Mr. Edward Stanhope, M.P., Cardinal Manning, the Bishop of Gloucester & Bristol, Rev. Guinness Rogers, Sir Charles Trevelyan, Bart., G.C.S.I., Sir William Pitt Rivers, Bart., Sir George Selwyn, Bart., Sir Francis Doyle, Bart., Alfred Tennyson (Poet Laureate), Mr. Robert Browning, Mr. T. H. Huxley, Mr. Herbert Spencer, Mr. Goldwin Smith, Mr. Frederic Harrison, Mr. C. E. Mansel-Pleydell, Mr. George Howell, Mr. James Russell, B.A., F.R.S., General Sir J. Linton Simmons, C.B., Major-Gen. Sir E. B. Handey, C.B., C.M.G., Major-Gen. Sir Henry Havelock-Allard, Bart., Admiral Sir G. Philipps Hewitt, C.B., Major-General C.B., Sir Lewis Dumbleton, K.C.B., K.C.I., Sir Henry Thompson, M.D., Mr. H. Grenfell (Governor of the Bank of England), Mr. William Smith, LL.D., Dr. John Murray, Mr. C. T. Newton, Sir John Lubbock, Bart., Richard Holt Hutton (Ed. of *Spectator*), Mr. John Lubbock, Bart. (Ed. of *Morning Post*), Mr. Frederick Greenwood (Ed. of *St. James's Gazette*), Mr. Blanchard Croker (Ed. of *Lloyd's Weekly News*)" etc.

The editor adds in a postscript that those who signed the above declaration of the grave mistake which it would be in the condition of Europe to unite England in the Channel

bonds which, once forged, it might be out of her power to cast off, are invited to add the names to those set forth above. Any communications upon the subject may be addressed within the next month to the office of the *Nineteenth Century*, 1, Paternoster square, London, E.C.

In view of the impending division on Mr. Gladstone's first resolution, the Press Association gives an analysis of the

position of the House. At the present moment the House consists of 637. At the moment the House consists of 637. At the moment of a nominal 638. Of the total, six were removed by the disfranchisement in 1870 of *James (one), Bridgewater (two), Sligo (one), and Campbell (one)*, who were vacant at the result of the bribery inquiry into the Gloucester (one), Canterbury (two), Macclesfield (two), Chester (two), Boston (two), Oxford (one), Sandwich (one), and Wigan (one) seats. *James (one)* has also remained unfilled since the elevation of *James (one)* to W. Chitty to the bench; while East Cornwall has a seat to be filled on Friday, through the succession of the present Lord Roberts to the Marquis of Blandford. The disqualification of Mr. Darnley, the fifteen seats vacant, eight were occupied by Liberals, six by Conservatives, and one by a Home Ruler. The total of 637 members now in the House is composed of 333 Liberals, 242 Conservatives, and 62 Home Rulers; but in any estimate of the voting strength of the respective parties certain necessary deductions have to be made. The Liberals lose votes owing to one of their number being absent, *Mr. B. B. (one)* (see *laugh*) having been prevented by the reduction of the House from taking the oath and his seat, and to a third (*Mr. Alexander*) being in New Zealand upon private affairs. The Conservatives are reduced by five in consequence of the absence of *Mr. Parnell*, *Mr. Dillon*, *Mr. O'Kelly*, and to the absence of *Mr. T. P. O'Connor* in the United States, and of *Mr. Errington* in Rome. The Home Rulers (*Mr. M. T. B. Bass* and the Right Hon. *Mr. M. T. Villiers*), one Conservative (*Lord Randolph Churchill*), and one Home Ruler (*Mr. O'Connor Power*), have been recently precluded from taking the oath of the House because of illness. After consideration of the state of the state of parties will stand thus: Liberals, 330; Conservatives, 241; and Home Rulers, 53. It is believed that the Conservative Opposition will be able to bring up their full strength on the Liberal side, and that they will receive the support of ten Liberals and thirty-five Home Rulers, thus giving a total of 286 votes against the Government proposition. On the other hand, it is calculated that there will be only fifteen abstentions on the Liberal side, and that the Liberal side voting with the Conservatives; but against these must be counted ten Moderate Home Rulers, who, according to the Liberals, will abstain from voting. Taking, therefore, the abstentions of *Mr. M. T. Villiers*, fifteen, the accessions at ten, and the losses at the same number, the Liberal vote will be 235, as against 286 for the Opposition, which is the Government majority of twenty-nine.

THE USE OF MORPHIA.—Dr. Danford Thomas has filed a report on the body of Captain Walter Rayner, Paddy's brother, who was killed by Major-General Hamley, R.E., 41, Eastbourne Terrace.—The father stated that his son, who was separated from his wife, was a captain in the Lancashire Rifles, and lived at 18, Portsea-place, Paddisford. His sister recorded a letter some days since, written in a cheerful tone. The witness stated the deceased was dead on Sunday last, and saw his body the next day. He was in comfortable circumstances, and was the usual healthy man, 18, Portsea-place, said the witness came to lodge at her house in June. She last saw him alive and apparently cheerful on Thursday last. The following day he did not come to her house as usual, and she became uneasy about him, and sent her maid to enquire how he was. She heard her maid say he was all right. She then sent her niece to call him.—Louisa Holland, a niece of the last witness, said she used to wait upon the deceased. She went to his bed-room to call him about eight on Friday evening, and, receiving no answer, called her mistress. At nine in the morning she thought he heard him call "Hallo!" She last saw him alive at nine on Thursday night.—The witness called to the coroner, General Hamley, and said he understood that he was buried at a private house in Powis-square on Thursday evening.—Dr. Rayner, Edgeware-road, said he was called in and found the deceased lying in bed on his left side with a look beside him. He had been dead six or eight hours. He found several medicine bottles, one of which had contained morphia, to be used as an injection. He discovered an instrument for injecting morphia, and found several bottles had contained liniments.—General Hamley said his son some months ago had a painful attack of sciatica, and was in the habit of using morphia.—Dr. Rayner, having made a post-mortem examination, is of opinion that death must have resulted from the injection of an overdose of morphia.—The coroner remarked that deaths of this description were of frequent occurrence lately, and that the morphia was very strong, and very likely to pain, and would do anything.

d of it for a time.—The jury, after a brief deliberation, returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased met with his death by accidentally taking an overdose of morphia.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CONFLICT.—A local correspondence of the Press Association writes:—“The extraordinary incident of the attempted affricambrace on Monday, arising from an attempt of the Ilfracombe Hotel Company to prevent officers of the Coastguard from passing over their property whilst in the execution of their duty. It would appear that since the formation of the Ilfracombe Hotel, the company have permitted the public to use their private road under certain conditions, one of which is the closing of the gates on a particular day every year. Notice having been given that this course would be adopted this year as usual, Lieut. Broughton, of the Coastguard, and the Commandant of the Coastguard, communicated with the Hotel Company, with a view of eliciting whether any opposition could be offered to the men under his command, in the event of their wishing to pass through the grounds on the day in question, to which they reply in the affirmative was received. Accordingly, Lieut. Broughton, a lieutenant and two other officers proceeded themselves at the gates, which were guarded by a strong body of men, and demanded admission, which was refused. Lieut. Broughton and his subordinates endeavoured to force their way through, and after a severe struggle, which was handled in their attempt. Later in the day another Coastguard officer, whilst endeavouring to effect a passage, was pitched over the gate and sustained a considerable injury. The Coastguardsman, afterwards returned, armed with a revolver, intimating that if he was again molested, he would be at their peril, he was then taken to prison, and the matter is being dealt with, and it is probable will form the subject of proceedings in one of the courts of law.”

THE PROTECTION OF RESEARCH.—At the Royal College of Physicians on Tuesday evening a large representative meeting of both branches of the medical profession was held, with a view, in face of organised opposition to the progress of scientific research, of taking steps to "bring the legitimate influence of the medical profession more effectively to bear on the promotion of those exact researches in physiology, pathology, and

progress in the healing art." Sir William Jenner presided, and there were present Sir James Paget, Sir William Gull, Sir Samuel Wilks, Mr. Spencer Wells, Dr. J. Matthew Duncan, Dr. J. Burdon Sanderson, Dr. Pye Smith, Dr. Bowman, Mr. Gerald Eve, Sir Risdon Bennett, Sir William MacCormac, Dr. Andrew Clark, Mr. Ernest Hart, Mr. Cameron, M.P., and Dr. Acland, of Oxford. Dr. Pye-Smith, the secretary of the meeting, read expressions of opinion in favour of the formation of an association to protect science against attacks by the public, and to promote research. The chairman, and to preserve the meeting, read a telegram from Sir Erasmus Wilson, stating that he was absent on account of ill-health, had been invited to attend the meeting, had declined, and after several meetings had been held by subscription to form an Association for the Advancement of Medicine by Research. He pointed to the fact that at the present time there was no society to guide and protect research, and stated that it was intended for the proposed society on a broad basis. He declared that it was not proposed to attempt to abrogate the existing law on research; but it was intended to waive its operation of the law, and to see that there were no important dangerous delays which occurred in granting licenses, to the late poisoning case tried at the Old Bailey. Yet in this case a mouse could not be administered an anaesthetic being admitted, and the surgeons engaged were inclined to go France to pursue those investigations necessary to bring to trial the criminal in England. The society proposed to have its headquarters in one hand, bringing its influence to bear on those ardent pursuers of science who did not regard the susceptibilities of the public, and so lessen the moral responsibilities which had been aroused. He then proposed that the society should be formed. Mr. Spencer Wells, in the absence of Sir Erasmus Wilson, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, seconded the motion, which was supported by the Master of the Rolls, "with great speed" to those engaged in research for the alleviation of human suffering. The motion was carried *nem. con.* The President of the Royal Society, Lord Kelvin, seconded by Dr. Quatrefages, Mr. Spottiswoode, seconded the motion, and the association should be formed of representative members of the profession and others, and this was carried. Sir James Paget, Sir William Gull, Sir Risdon Bennett, Sir J. Lubbock, and others proposed resolutions on questions of matters of detail, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE PROFESSION OF PRIZE-FIGHTING. It does not seem to be generally known that prize-fighting is just as much a regular profession as boxing, and in the gallant days of old time knickered each other about in the open air; the modern heroes go through the same performances within doors. But the warriors are considerably different, the fights is an idyllic pursuit which gives no middleman to several middlemen. The middleman has his regular beat and calls on regular customers, who also has his pairs of gladiators always at call. He is a man of great wish to see a genuine combat, he simply subscribes twenty or thirty or fifty pounds, to place the money in the middleman's hands. The prize is not a very sanguinary affair, but £50 will buy a deal of bloodshed. When the money is deposited the middleman cuts out "two lads that want a thrashing. The "lads" are mostly lazy louts who do not love work. They train for a week on the "ground" by the honest merchant who arranges the meeting. They are finally placed in the ring they really do hurt each other a good deal, and the spectators have the pleasures of battle and conspiracy simultaneously. There is half an hour of heavy hitting, and few blows are really of a large amount of bad language on the cords, a man gives in. The middleman pockets half the money and the rest is divided between the battered ruffians who afford the entertainment. The affair is always a nasty business. It is not always a pleasant sight, but it is very interesting. The prize-fighting was pretty enough when a pair of artists like Dillon and Reardon were at work. Their light and dexterous movements, the shifting of the feet, the set smile of the performers, made rather a good show; but when the men were covered with dirt and mud (and the glory), the spectacle was revolting enough. It is curious to know how much the prize-fighters make their living in such way. But the income of roughs are quite content to buy a month's entertainment at the price of a bruised face. *St. James's*

DOCTORS' BILLS.—A correspondent writes to the *Mail* *Gazette*:—“Can nothing be done to prevent doctors from giving their bills? One never thinks of a large family of taking note of a doctor's visits at the end of a few months a bill comes in at which time, which may be right or wrong, it is checked, and the bill is paid. In no case I called for details and I have simply a very sharp letter declining to give them, and stating that the writer “was not in the habit of overcharging.” “The more you pay me, the more I shall be ready to prove the items of my charges.” In the result he let out that he had ordered me £17 10s. for a cheque for £20—a pure blunder, no doubt, but one that proved the reasonableness of what happened to me. I do not know why doctors and surgeons should not specify in their bills, if they are family visiting, the dates and nature of their services. A gentleman recently informed me that an accident had happened to his child, for which another was responsible, he, a few months later, received a bill for general attendance and on asking the surgeon to specify the fees relating to the child's accident he replied that he would not do so approximately. Now, then, was the tale told?”

THE HUNTING DISPUTE IN DEVONSHIRE.—The Aldon Hunt difficulty has (an Exeter correspondent says) been arranged. Sir John Lydston retires from the joint mastership with Lord Haldon, and the hounds are given over to Mr. Studd, of Oxtou House, who will act with the old committee minus Lord Haldon. Sir Lydston Newman is on excellent terms with what may be called the operative portion of the committee and the new master, and it is hoped that peace will now be preserved between the parties.

THE HEALTH OF LONDON.—In London last week 2,559 births and 1,827 deaths were registered. Allowing for increase of population since the two preceding weeks, the corresponding weeks exceeded by 30 per cent average numbers the corresponding weeks of the last ten years. The annual death-rate from all causes which had been equal to 24 and 22·7 per cent each of the two preceding weeks, rose to 24 and 26·2 per cent respectively of the current quarter and past twelve weeks respectively. The non-proliferation disease averaged 25·9 per 1,000. At the Royal observatory, Greenwich, the mean reading of the barometer last week was 29·71 in.; the highest reading was 30·08 in. on Thursday morning, and the lowest 29·15 in. at the end of the week. The temperature was 4·6 deg. and 2·8 above the average in the corresponding week of the twenty years ending 1868. The mean was below the average on Wednesday and Thursday, whereas it was above on Friday and Saturday, whereas it

THE IRISH MEMBERS AND MR. FORSTER'S SPEECH.—The London correspondent of the *Treeman's Journal* says:—The startling announcement made by Mr. Forster that the Government are preparing still further measures of coercion for Ireland has produced a marked effect on the ministerial Home Rulers, and it is believed that in consequence many of Mr. Shaw's friends, who otherwise would have voted with the Government, will